

Hafa Adai!

'Immediate release' sought for 17-year-old in sexual assault case. **PAGE 4**
HKPA opposes American Sinopan's motion to dismiss lawsuit. **PAGE 7**

75¢

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MVA allots \$313K for fam tours

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

After over a year of hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, moves to reopen the CNMI to tourists are underway and the Marianas Visitors Authority board will be allocating \$313,000 to restart a program that aims to promote and sell the destination to prospective tourists.

See MVA on **Page 4**



The Marianas Visitors Authority's board holds a special meeting yesterday at its office in San Jose, presided by newly-elected chair Viola Alepuyo.
BEA CABRERA

AT A GLANCE

As of 7:30pm, May 19, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population **52%**
Fully Vaccinated: **52%**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	20,872
Fully Vaccinated:	18,804
Moderna	
Initiated:	3,584
Fully Vaccinated:	2,762
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	182

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	8,109	9	8,118
Recovered	7,880	11	7,891
Active	79	9	88
Deaths	139	0	139
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	161,864		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	174	1	175
Traced via Travel Screening	138	1	139
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	26,131*		
Days since last community transmission	63		

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

House's ARPA bill goes back to committee

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

At the recommendation of the Senate's legal counsel, senators unanimously agreed Tuesday not to act at this time on a House of Representatives bill that seeks to give the Legislature appropriation powers over the more than half-a-billion dollars in American Rescue Plan Act money that's allocated to the CNMI.

Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) moved to pass House Bill 22-33 at the session, but later retracted his motion upon hearing the recommendation of Senate legal counsel Joe Bermudes and Senate Presi-

See HOUSE on **Page 4**



Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) gestures as he explained at the Senate's Tuesday session the need to pass House Bill 22-33 that seeks to give the Legislature appropriation powers over the American Rescue Plan Act money that will be given to the CNMI. Manglona later withdrew his motion upon hearing the advice of Senate counsel Joe Bermudes.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

Torres hopes CUC gets new power plant soon

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres hopes his administration and the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. can attain its goal of having a new power plant and new power generator in the next few months.

Responding to a question about CUC during a radio news briefing last Friday,

» Governor says central govt, CHCC can sustain monthly payments of utility bills

Torres said that having a new power plant and new generator will provide an

See TORRES on **Page 4**

GCEA heads to Rota for its 1st anniversary

The Governor's Council of Economic Advisers will kick off its first-anniversary celebration with a Public Private Partnership transformation project on Rota this weekend.

GCEA members and officials will work with the Rota

Mayor's Office and volunteers from both the host island and Saipan in transforming the Sinapalo Basketball Court and Youth Center. The basketball backboard will be replaced, the court will be painted, and

See GCEA on **Page 4**

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Luxury, style, quality, and comfort is what embodies Bulgario Nails Collection in San Jose.

PAGE 12



ASIA

Restrictions are re-imposed across much of Asia as the coronavirus makes a resurgence.

PAGE 13



ENVIRONMENT

We see them around, in stripes of black and gold, buzzing from flower to flower. Yes, bees.

PAGE 14



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Local

NMC graduation tomorrow

A total of 470 graduates will be recognized this Friday when the Northern Marianas College confers associate and bachelor degrees at its 2021 Commencement Exercises for the Class of 2020 and Class of 2021.

To comply with COVID-19 social distancing protocols, the combined graduation ceremony for the classes of 2020 and 2021 will be held in three separate venues and attendance will be limited to the graduates and NMC staff only, so the event will be streamed live on NMC's Facebook Page.

The graduation ceremony itself will be held at the Saipan World Resort, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, and Hyatt Regency Saipan. Family and friends who would like to view the ceremony can log on to facebook.com/NMC.Proa. The live stream will start at 1pm Chamorro Standard Time.

At the Saipan World Resort site, NMC will confer degrees to its graduates at the School of Business and Nursing Department.

The Fiesta Resort & Spa venue will host the graduation for the Liberal Arts, Liberal Arts-Health & PE, Criminal Justice (UOGBS), and Criminal Justice (AA).

The Hyatt Regency Saipan venue will have the graduates of the School of Education, Liberal Arts-Education, and Liberal Arts-Social Work.

All graduates and NMC staff will be required to wear masks at all times and practice social distancing. (PR)



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Alleged dealer arrested for more than 50 grams of meth

In an arrest warrant that was unsealed and filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday, Dwight Lee Deleon Guerrero Aldan was indicted by the court on one count of "possession with intent to distribute" more than 50 grams of methamphet-

amine. The arrest warrant was issued on May 17 and

Aldan was arrested on May 18 in As Lito.

As of 2pm on Wednesday, lawyer Steven P. Pixley was assigned as Aldan's legal representative beginning May

18, and the U.S. government filed a motion to detain Aldan on May 19. Initial appearance for Aldan

was set for May 19 1:30pm with Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona presiding. (*Joshua Santos*)

Most popular baby names in American Samoa, Guam, CNMI in 2020

The Social Security Administration announced last Friday that Gianna and Elijah were the most popular baby names in American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Mariana Islands in 2020.

The top boys and girls names in 2020 in these three American territories were: For boys, it was Elijah, Alex-

ON THE NET

See the list at www.socialsecurity.gov

ander, Isaiah, Jayden, and Jeremiah. For girls, it was Gianna and Hailey.

The agency announced last week that Olivia and Liam were the most popular baby names in the U.S. How does American Samoa, Guam, and Northern Mariana Islands compare to the rest of the country? Check out Social Security's website, www.socialsecurity.gov, to see the top national baby names for 2020.

The agency began compiling the baby name list in 1997, with names dating back to 1880. At the time of a child's birth, parents supply the name to the agency when applying for a child's Social Security card, thus making Social Security America's source for the most popular baby names.

In addition to each state's top baby names (and names for U.S. territories), Social Security's website has a list of the 1,000 most popular boys and girls names for 2020.

To see the fastest rising girls and boys names in 2020, go to www.socialsecurity.gov/news/press/releases/2021/#5-2021-2. (*PR*)

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2016 TOYOTA PRIUS C • 48,814 MILES • STK: 20DI34A • KBB: \$16,585 SALE PRICE \$13,995	2018 HYUNDAI TUCSON • 19,482 MILES • STK: 8H035D • KBB: \$17,777 SALE PRICE \$16,995	2018 FORD F-150 XL • 38,480 MILES • STK: 18P316 • KBB: \$24,252 SALE PRICE \$23,995
2017 MAZDA3 SPORT • 38,494 MILES • STK: 7R235 • KBB: \$17,146 SALE PRICE \$13,995	2018 NISSAN ROGUE SP AWD • 30,612 MILES • STK: 21H004A • KBB: \$18,555 SALE PRICE \$17,995	2019 MAZDA CX-5 GT AWD • 8,214 MILES • STK: 19P299 • KBB: \$28,460 SALE PRICE \$26,995
2016 HYUNDAI VELOSTER • 39,217 MILES • STK: 20H068-A • KBB: \$15,830 SALE PRICE \$13,995	2015 TOYOTA HIGHLANDER LE • 62,811 MILES • STK: 5HS735A • KBB: \$19,031 SALE PRICE \$17,995	2019 TOYOTA TACOMA SR5 2WD • 13,339 MILES • STK: 19P321 • KBB: \$34,648 SALE PRICE \$33,995

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CNMI's COVID-19 total now at 175

One additional individual has been confirmed positive for COVID-19. This brings our CNMI total to 175 cases since March 28, 2020.

The individual was identified by travel screening and confirmed

diagnosis through fifth-day testing on May 18, 2021. This case did not report any COVID-19 vaccination.

The individual has been moved to the designated isolation area for monitoring.

The CHCC Communicable Disease Investigation/Inspection team has already initiated contact tracing for the most immediate contacts of the new confirmed case, including passengers on the same flight. **(PR)**

HOUSE

From Page 1

dent Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), as well as the arguments of Sen. Victor B. Hocog (R-Rota).

All nine senators voted that the bill shall remain before the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee, which Hocog chairs, pending Bermudes' review of the contrasting opinions on the House of Representatives' "tie-breaker rule."

Last March 19, House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) voted twice—as authorized under the House's tie-breaker rule—to break a 10-10 tie to pass House Bill 22-33, authored by Rep. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota).

Attorney General Edward Manibusan later issued an opinion, saying that the rule, which allows the speaker to vote twice in the event of a tie, contravenes the CNMI Con-

stitution's provision on the minimum vote requirement. Manibusan also recommended that a possible solution to resolve the dispute is to submit a certified question petition to the CNMI Supreme Court on the matter.

At the Senate session Tuesday, Manglona asked his colleagues to pass House Bill 22-33, which he described as a simple legislation that grants each and every one of them in the Legislature the right to do what they're supposed to be doing in the first place.

"If we make a mistake, then let's say the attorney general is right, what's the big deal?" Manglona asked.

Citing the Senate's own rules, the senator said the Senate's only concern is that this bill be signed for legal sufficiency, which has already been done by the House legal counsel.

He said he has no concern about how the outcome will be if this

will be taken to the Supreme Court through a certified question for something that they, as lawmakers, are trying to exercise authority to safeguard the funding.

When asked for his recommendation, Bermudes said the Senate should not pass the bill at this point and that it should remain before the Fiscal Affairs Committee pending his (Bermudes') review of both opinions of the AG and the House's legal counsel on the tie-breaker rule. "I will review both and then come up with an answer. ... When I give my answer I will stand by my answer. Right or wrong but I will stick to my answer," he said. "Either yes, the AG is right, or no the AG is wrong and the House counsel is right. And I will stick to my decision."

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

TORRES

From Page 1

efficient system that will eventually result in reduced electric rates to everyone in the CNMI.

Right now, he said the administration can absolutely sustain having the central government and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. current with their payment of their utility bills since signing an agreement with CUC last year to resolve their long-standing unpaid billings.

CUC chief financial officer Greg Cruz told the CUC board at a special board meeting last week that both

CHCC and the central government are living up to their obligation in the agreement.

Cruz said CUC has been receiving about \$219,000 monthly, with \$150,000 coming from the central government and \$69,000 from the hospital.

At the press briefing, Torres said they are here to help CHCC and CUC. "We know how critical CUC is on this island. Without CUC, there will be no life, no economy, no education, no public health," Torres said, adding that they are aware of that and that is definitely a priority.

He also assured that it is also a priority of his administration for CHCC and all other government entities to

be up to date on their requests for payments.

He said they have been helping CUC in so many different aspects, whether to address the federal court's stipulation order, to grants, and to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and that they prioritize assisting CUC with the funding under the Disaster Recovery program, other federal grants, and disaster relief.

He said they have talked to CUC executive director Gary P. Camacho and some members of the CUC board about their plans. "I know that they want to get a new power plant, but at the same time making sure that our utility or power is sustained today."

GCEA

From Page 1

a fence will be installed, while the bleachers will be cleaned and repainted too. Repairs and enhancement work will also be done. The transformation work will begin this Friday afternoon and will conclude on Saturday, while the GCEA will host an appreciation event for volunteers Sunday morning.

"The GCEA, through its Public Private Partnership initiative, aims to transform destination sites and village facilities across all our three islands. Together with our committed PPP partners, we've completed several projects [on] Saipan and two [on] Rota since it was established last May. This weekend, we are adding the Sinapalo basketball and volleyball courts and Youth Center to our list and will be identifying more sites and facilities for adoption for the enjoyment of residents and visitors of Rota. I applaud our people for coming together to transform the Marianas one site at a time. Join us as we work to provide safer and better facilities for our com-

munity to enjoy. Together, we can," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

Meanwhile, the GCEA will hold its monthly general membership meeting and the formal signing of a memorandum of agreement with five PPP partners from Rota on Saturday, May 22. The Commonwealth Ports Authority-Rota, Filipino Community of Rota, Hotel Valentino, Rota Merchandising and DK Brothers, and the Rota Mayor's Office will sign five-year MOUs for the repairs and maintenance work of the Melchor Mendiola Leadership Park, Benita Manglona Buildings, and Airport Road.

From Rota, the GCEA will head to Tinian in June for the second leg of its anniversary celebration. The council, through the help of the Tinian Mayor's Office and volunteers, will transform several basketball courts on the island on June 25 and 26 and engage residents in other prospective PPP projects. On July 3, the GCEA will conclude its first-anniversary celebration on Saipan with an islandwide cleanup involving all its PPP partners. New PPP partners and volunteers are welcome at all PPP

events. Sign-up information can be found on the GCEA's Facebook and Instagram pages (@cnmigov.economy) or can be requested by email at gceacnmi@gmail.com.

The GCEA marked its first anniversary on May 19. The council was established through Executive Order 2020-11 to aid in the formulation of economic initiatives and transformation of destination sites and facilities in the Marianas.

About the GCEA

The Governor's Council of Economic Advisers' mission is to provide objective advice to Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios to ensure that future economic decisions and programs are aligned to ultimately improve the CNMI's quality of life. The GCEA's Public Private Partnership initiative has drawn widespread support throughout the community. Various projects have been launched to support the CNMI's transformation campaign. For more information, visit the GCEA on Facebook and Instagram (@cnmigov.economy) or engage with advisers by email at gceacnmi@gmail.com. **(PR)**

'Immediate release' sought for 17-year-old in sexual assault case

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The lawyer of Kenneth Thomas Blas Kaipat has filed an emergency motion for a status conference in Superior Court yesterday regarding his client's bail and continued incarceration at the Department of Corrections.

In his filing, lawyer Brien Sers Nicolas reminded the court that Kaipat's May 17 motion for bail reduction and modification had been granted and that on May 18 Kaipat was able to file a \$50,000 appearance bond that was signed by Kaipat's parents, who "duly recorded real property mortgage to secure said appearance bond."

Yet despite this, "the defendant... is still incarcerated at DOC as of filing of this emergency motion," said Nicolas.

The 17-year-old Kaipat was initially brought to juvenile court on multiple charges of first and second-degree sexual assault, burglary, aggravated assault and battery, assault with a dangerous weapon, and strangulation. All of these charges alleged by the CNMI stems from an incident

on or around June 2, 2019, where Kaipat allegedly entered a building and hit with a dumbbell, strangled or attempted to strangle, and sexually assaulted a household member. The juvenile court waived its juvenile jurisdiction over the case on May 13 and since then Kaipat has been tried as an adult.

An arrest warrant for Kaipat was issued by the court last May 14 and he was arrested that same day in Dandan.

A hearing in adult court on Kaipat's motion for bail reduction and modification was held at the Guma Hustisia last May 17, where the court granted his motion and his release to his parents. Kaipat, however, is still subject to certain bail conditions and was ordered a \$50,000 bail bond to be either paid in cash or secured by a real property mortgage.

After complying with the requirements set by the newly reduced and modified bail, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho yesterday ordered Kaipat's immediate release to his third-party custodians.

As of writing, Kaipat is still incarcerated at the Department of Corrections.

MVA

From Page 1

Restarting the "familiarization tours" program—where tour owners and operators, influencers, and media personnel from other countries are invited for special guided tours to see activities and attractions in the CNMI—is seen as a first step to opening borders and welcoming visitors once again.

A total of \$313,000 was allotted to restart the program and the funding was approved in an executive session at the MVA special board of directors meeting yesterday. The meeting was presided by MVA's new board chair Viola Alepuyo.

The funding for the familiarization tour program—more colloquially known as "fam tours"—will be borrowed from the \$3 million that MVA received from the Department of Finance allotment from February to April 2021, according to MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. That money fully paid MVA's share of the Hotel Occupancy Tax in fiscal year 2019.

"We have a balance of \$2.4 million from [that amount]. ... We asked the board to approve the allocations out of the \$2.4 million we received, which are payment to municipalities—Saipan, Tinian and Rota—to reimburse our building fund, for familiarization tour of \$313,000 and [for] payroll for at least three months," she said.

"We had a meeting with the Finance Secretary David DLG Atalg last Monday and he mentioned that he will be remitting another \$3 million to MVA and he said he was going to do that this week. ... If we receive the fiscal year 2021 budget allocation and appropriations then, we will reimburse those items back," she added.

Alepuyo said she cannot over-emphasize the importance of "fam tours" for visitors from South Korea. "It is still in the planning phase but is an essential component of our tourism resumption plans in order to jumpstart our economy so our government can continue to provide essential government services such as health care and public safety," she said.

"We are planning on 50 participants in the fam tour made up of social media influencers, YouTubers, media and film crew, and travel agents, their CEOs, and managers who will be able to learn and experience the safety measures we will have in place in order to keep our community safe. The tour will include visits to Saipan, Tinian, and Rota," she added.

To temper the worries of the community about opening borders to tourists once again, Alepuyo said all visitors will be required to comply with the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force protocols. "This will include a negative PCR test prior to arrival, testing upon arrival, a five-day mandatory quarantine, and then another test on the fifth day before they are released from quarantine."

"These plans have been a result of months of communication with the COVID-19 Task Force and CNMI public health officials to ensure that any activity related to the resumption of tour marketing is aligned with established health and safety protocols and is in the best interest of CNMI residents," she added.

Iakopo said that MVA would like to pay approximately 34% of its share of the Hotel Occupancy Tax funds to the municipalities of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota for tourism enhancement purposes.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com



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Interior awards Palau \$300K for recovery from Typhoon Surigae

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs is pleased to announce an award of \$300,000 in emergency maintenance assistance program funding to the gov-

ernment of the Republic of Palau to augment U.S. government support for disaster recovery efforts in Palau following the impacts of Typhoon Surigae on April 16, 2021.

"The OIA team is pleased to provide this emergency assistance to support the President and the people of Palau as they continue to build back and recover from the impacts of Typhoon Surigae," said Nikolao Pula, acting assistant secretary for Insular and International Affairs. "We are pleased to help provide support to the people of Palau, along with our other federal partners and in support of our bilateral relationship."

"With Typhoon Surigae damaging over 1,000 homes, the U.S. government continues to support our ally, Palau, with timely funding for communities to rehabilitate homes, schools, and especially health-care facilities that are making

vaccination progress on the fight against COVID-19," said U.S. Ambassador to Palau John Hennessey-Niland.

The funds will be used to rehabilitate and repair schools and healthcare facilities that were damaged by Typhoon Surigae to include roofs, walkways, water tanks and pumps, windows, signage, and other related equipment.

While no lives were lost, the slow movement of Surigae combined with winds up to 75 miles per hour, heavy rainfall, and significant storm surges contributed to widespread damage and destruction to infrastructure, crops, livestock, and dwellings in several states across Palau. It was reported that 100% of households and

infrastructure in the outer islands and at least 10% on Palau's main island of Koror were affected. Vaccination progress for COVID-19 and other immunization programs have been hampered due to the widespread damage to households and infrastructure.

Several federal partners provided support to Palau immediately following the disaster including the U.S. Agency

for International Development and the U.S. Coast Guard.

The OIA Maintenance Assistance Program is made available each year by Congress to support priorities in the U.S. territories and the freely associated states. More information about the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs can be found at www.doi.gov/oia. (*PR*)

Tourism Month Industry Cleanup on May 29

The public is invited to join the Tourism Month Industry Cleanup on Saturday, May 29, 2021, in Marpi.

Volunteers will meet at the Last Command Post at 9am and be assigned to various sites in Marpi.

The event is organized by the Japan-Saipan Travel Association in cooperation with the Marianas Visitors Authority. For more information, contact MVA Community Projects specialist Jack Aranda at 664-3200 or jaranda@mymarianas.com. (*MVA*)


PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION (RFQ)
RFQ21-CHCC/PH/CGC-001
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JUNE 21, 2021 TIME: 4:30PM (CHST)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES FOR INDEFINITE DELIVERY INDEFINITE QUANTITY (IDIQ)

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORAZON P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY


PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP NO.: RFP21-GOV-082
SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 30, 2021 TIME: 02:00 P.M.

"GROUP LIFE INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES FOR THE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY*

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
DIRECTOR, PROC. SERVICES


DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB21-DOF-098
SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 14, 2021 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE LEASE FOR PASSPORT OFFICE, OFFICE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & OFFICE OF INFRASTRUCTURE AND RECOVERY FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.


FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY*

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/S/ DAVID DLG. ATALIG
SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P&S


REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
MVA-RFP-21-2026

For: Marianas Visitors Authority Local Public Relations and Media Services
 Submission /Closing Date: June 11, 2021 Time: 3:00 p.m.

Submit sealed proposals to: Marianas Visitors Authority
 Attn: Procurement Office
 San Jose Professional Building
 Beach Rd., San Jose
 P.O. Box 500861, Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the Scope of Work on or after **May 07, 2021** at the **Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan**, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Proposals submitted from individuals outside the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or certified Courier mail service on or before **June 11, 2021** and must be received within seven (7) working days of that date. Proposers from outside the CNMI must notify the MVA Procurement Officer Ms. Lenette Maratita in writing of their intent to submit in order to receive the additional seven (7) days for the receipt of the actual Proposal Documents. This notice of intent may be submitted by any mode of written communication including facsimile to +1-670-664-3237 or emailed to lmaratita@mymarianas.com and must be received no later than 3:00 p.m., Chamorro Standard Time on **June 11, 2021**.

/S/ Ellsbeth Viola Alepuyo
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

/S/ Priscilla M. Iakopo
Managing Director, MVA




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Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-21-019

Island Wide Water Meter Installation

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Island Wide Water Meter Installation in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary to complete the scope of work which consists of: replacement of water meters, relocation of a water meter and meter vault, reconfiguration of water meter service laterals, expansion of a water meter vault, installation of gate valves, replacement of vault covers, installation of ladder rungs, driveway and sidewalk restoration, and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system and service to the customers affected. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 120 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **\$100.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **May 25, 2021 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-21-019, Island Wide Water Meter Installation"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 10, 2021**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury. A *Payment Bond* of one Hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 1, 2021** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Alley Reyes, CUC Water/Wastewater Jr. Engineer via email address alley.reyes@cucgov.org and to Christie Sablan, P&S, Senior Administrative Technician – christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

HKPA opposes American Sinopan's motion to dismiss lawsuit

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

H.K. Pangelinan & Associates LLC is opposing American Sinopan LLC's motion to dismiss its breach of contract lawsuit against the property developer.

In papers it filed last Monday in the U.S. District Court for the NMI, HKPA lawyer Colin M. Thompson stated that his client opposes the motion to dismiss because "none of defendant's arguments withstand scrutiny."

American Sinopan lawyer Jordan C. Sundell earlier filed a motion to dismiss the case on the grounds that HKPA didn't attach or refer to relevant contracts in their complaint and didn't provide ample proof that HKPA held up its end of the contracts. American Sinopan is a property developer and the real estate subsidiary of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC.

In the filing last May 17, Thompson cited precedent that parties in a breach of contract lawsuit—like HKPA—do not need to attach the contract to their initial complaint filing nor does it need

to include the contract's terms verbatim into the initial complaint. Thompson said what HKPA is required to do in their complaint filing is plead to the contract's "legal effects" or rather "the substance of its terms." Additionally, he cite legal precedent that establishes that "the court must be able generally to discern at least what material obligation of the contract the defendant allegedly breached."

Thompson maintains that HKPA has met these requirements, since HKPA has "properly alleged the salient terms of the contract" and has "sufficiently alleged the existence of the contracts." In its complaint, HKPA specified the work American Sinopan hired HKPA to perform and provided project descriptions and locations.

Thompson also cited legal precedents established under CNMI law to assert that HKPA is not required to plead with specificity that it completed its obligations. Under CNMI law, to prevail in a breach of contract claim, a party like HKPA must demonstrate "(1) the existence of a valid contract, (2)

the breach of an obligation imposed under the contract, and (3) damage to a party like HKPA resulting from the breach."

HKPA has sufficiently alleged the existence of the two valid contracts in the lawsuit, has alleged that American Sinopan breached the two contracts by failing to pay for the services rendered, and has alleged damages as a result of American Sinopan's failure to pay, Thompson said.

HKPA's opposition to American Sinopan's motion to dismiss awaits further review.

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IT&E

CGC hosts Mental Health First Aid certification training

As part of activities for Mental Health Awareness Month, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. hosted a six-hour virtual Mental Health First Aid certification training on May 13, 2021, for two staff of the CHCC Community Guidance Center's Behavioral Health Response Program and eight employees of AB Risk Solutions in Guam and on Saipan.

Mental Health First Aid is an evidence-based public education program that removes the unease and apprehension of starting conversations about mental health and substance use challenges by improving, understanding, and providing an action plan that teaches individuals to safely and responsibly identify and address warning signs and symptoms of a potential mental health or substance use disorder.

CGC's Kimberly Seman Tudela and Jessica Camacho-Barcinas led the training with the technical assistance of Lupe Camacho and Lei Iguel. The CHCC training was funded through support from the Substance Abuse

and Mental Health Services Administration's Healthy Transitions grant and the System of Care grant.

The training covered early signs and symptoms, worsening signs and symptoms, crisis signs and symptoms, the mental health first aid action plan, and self-care for the mental health first aider. Part of the training included topics on suicide, non-suicidal self-injury, and psychosis. The participants worked on identifying signs and symptoms of appropriate mental health care and applying the action plan during non-crisis and crisis situations.

To date, CGC has certified 1,079 individuals in the CNMI, including community members from Guam, in either the MHFA youth curriculum, adult curriculum, or both.

For more information on MHFA, visit www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org. For contact information and to request for the CHCC CGC's MHFA training, visit chcc.gov.mp/communitysupport-training.php. (PR)



Tudela



Camacho-Barcinas



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Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

A turning point in the fight against COVID-19

The federal government's decision last week to relax its guidance on masks marked a turning point in America's fight against COVID-19. While the reversal created confusion, and concern among some experts and skeptics, the move was appropriate given the encouraging trends, the effectiveness the vaccines have shown and the precautions Americans are voluntarily taking to limit the spread of infections. The nation, though, still has a way to go, and Florida has a particular interest in promoting caution and vigilance.

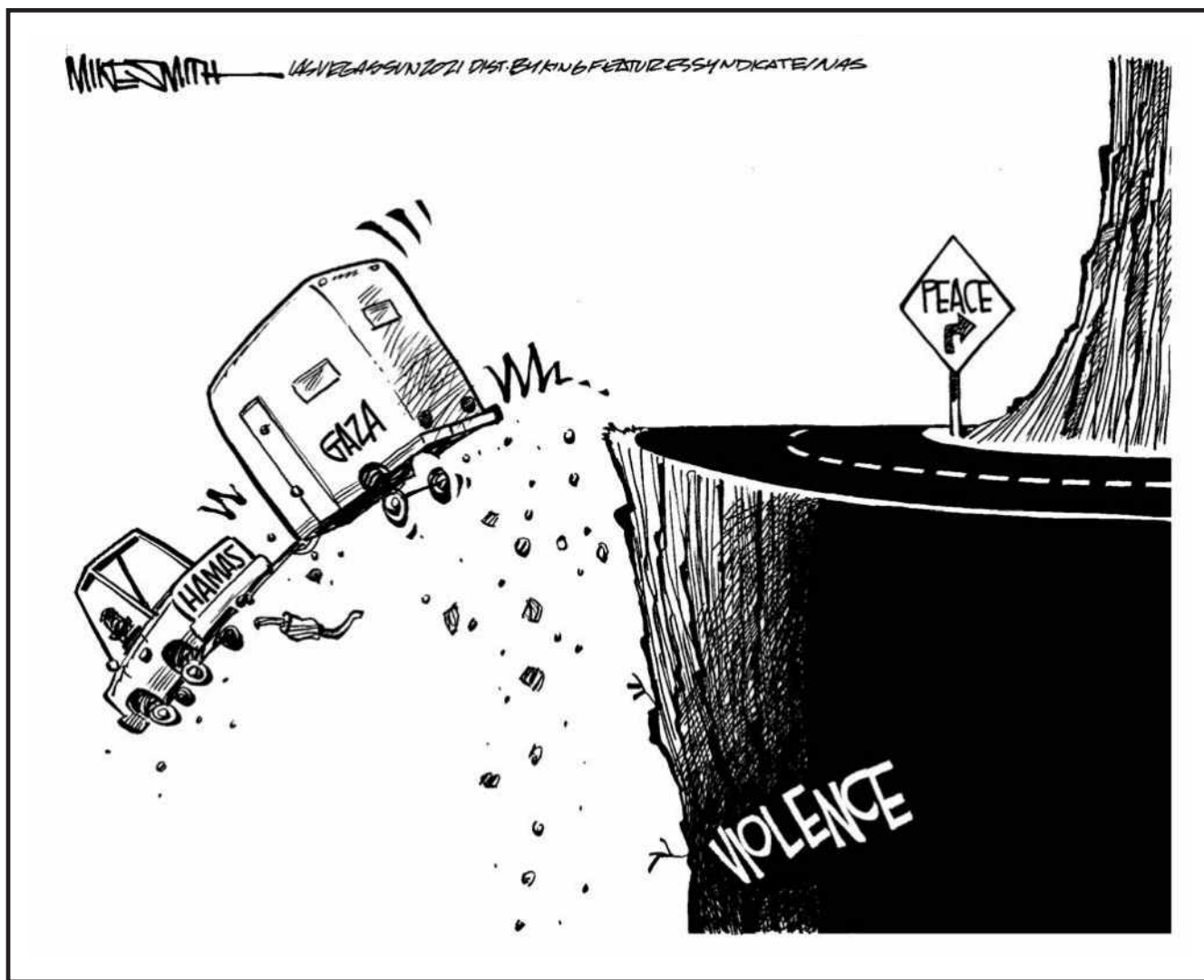
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said Thursday that fully vaccinated people could start taking off their masks indoors. Coming as the number of new infections has plummeted as the supply of vaccine outstrips demand, the new recommendations were welcomed by many, who say the easing aptly reflects the risk level at this stage of the evolving pandemic. The guidance has exceptions: Fully vaccinated people are still encouraged to wear face coverings on planes, buses and trains and in some congregate settings, such as hospitals and jails. Though the advisory does not override mask orders by states and local governments, jurisdictions across the country scrambled last week to bring their own rules into compliance with the federal advisory.

Critics accused the CDC of caving to political pressure in making the policy change. But with cases, hospitalizations and deaths in the U.S. trending down for weeks, and with vaccines becoming more available for larger segments of the population, the agency was right to ease off. After more than a year of masking up, Americans needed to see the guidance calibrated to the times. The new recommendations provide a psychological boost. They also underscore the safety and effectiveness of the vaccines, including the protection they offer against most variants. About 47 percent of the U.S. population, and 45 percent in Florida, have received at least one dose of the vaccine. As of Monday, 37 percent of the U.S. population was fully vaccinated, compared to almost 32 percent in Florida. If the new guidance helps move more people to get the jab so they can enjoy more freedom, so much the better.

As the nation's third largest state, heavily reliant on tourism, Florida has a particular stake in improving the nation's COVID picture. New cases in Florida continue to drop, deaths remain low and after holding steady for months, case counts in Tampa Bay area schools are dropping precipitously. These are encouraging trends as the summer travel season looms. Last week, following the CDC announcement, several major Florida theme parks loosened their mask requirements, including Busch Gardens Tampa, Disney World and Universal Orlando. State and local public health authorities will need to monitor infections and address any outbreaks as these attractions and the economy further open up.

Last week's announcement that younger teens could get

See COVID-19 on Next Page



Our freedom only survives if we protect it

By **DAVID L. NEVINS**
THE FULCRUM

I have heard and read many great speeches in my lifetime. Some include a single memorable phrase that is remembered forever or powerful words that speak to our common humanity and sway the opinion of those listening. And most often, a great speech is one that takes courage to deliver because of the powerful forces in opposition to the message being conveyed.

Rep. Liz Cheney's speech of May 11, 2021, is one of those great speeches of courage and conviction. Every American, whether you are a Democrat, Republican or independent, surely believes in these words as spoken by Cheney:

"God has blessed America, Mr. Speaker. But our freedom only survives if we protect it. If we honor our oath, taken before God in this chamber, to support and defend the Constitution. If we recognize threats to freedom when they arise."

She spoke of the rule of law. She spoke to the truth that the election is over and spoke of those with great power who refuse to accept the rulings of our courts and are therefore at war with the duty of elected representatives and, yes, everyday citizens to uphold the rule of law.

"Every one of us who has sworn the oath [to the Constitution] must act to present the unraveling of our democracy."

In these partisan times I know some will shrug off her speech as an overreaction and others will see it as partisan. If defending our democracy and speaking the truth to the American people is partisan, then I confess I am partisan. Yes, I am a partisan for democracy.

Cheney's speech reminds me of the speech delivered courageously by Sen. Margaret Chase Smith. Smith was also a conservative woman, standing alone against powerful conservative voices attacking the very freedoms and the rule of law that so many professed to believe in but were too cowardly to stand up for.

The divide that separated us as a people 70 years ago, during Joe McCarthy's ruthless hearings to track down Americans who without proof were alleged Communists, is very similar to the mood in our country today. We were a deeply divided country then as we are today, and thus looking back can serve as a reminder that if we can't remember history we will be condemned to repeat it.

As Smith boarded the Senate subway to head to the chamber floor on June 1, 1950, another senator asked her why she looked so serious and asked her if she was going to give a speech. Her

reply without hesitation was, "Yes, and you will not like it!" — surely the same feeling that Cheney had 70 years later before her speech to Congress.

Smith's speech is now called "The Declaration of Conscience," as perhaps Cheney's speech will be similarly titled 50-plus years from now.

Smith, the only woman in the Senate at the time, had the courage to speak out. These words should be remembered today:

"I speak as a Republican. I speak as a woman. I speak as a United States Senator. I speak as an American. Those of us who shout the loudest about Americanism in making character assassinations are all too frequently those who, by our own words and acts, ignore some of the basic principles of Americanism:

The right to criticize;
The right to hold unpopular beliefs;
The right to protest;
The right of independent thought.

Yet to displace it with a Republican regime embracing a philosophy that lacks political integrity or intellectual honesty would prove equally disastrous to this nation. The nation sorely needs a Republican victory. But I don't want to see the Republican Party ride to political victory on Fear, Ignorance, Bigotry, and Smear."

Both Cheney and Smith understood that a short-term victory would be a long-term defeat for the democracy they were elected to uphold. But most importantly they showed the courage and the leadership that President John F. Kennedy spoke of in his Pulitzer Prize-winning book recounting the stories of eight U.S. senators who risked their careers by embracing unpopular positions for the greater good. JFK said "great crises produce great men, and great deeds of courage." In this case it was two great women who exhibited a profile in courage.

Character and courage are what more of our elected representatives should aspire to as leaders. As Winston Churchill said: "Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts."

Cheney's closing words are a clarion call that I hope reaches the hearts of all Americans:

"We must love America so much that we will never yield in her defense. That is our duty."

David L. Nevins is co-founder and board chairman of the Bridge Alliance Education Fund, a 501(c)(3) organization that houses The Fulcrum.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

POINT:

Democrats will maintain their hold on Congress in 2022

By **ROBERT PAWLICKI**
InsideSources.com

Robert Pawlicki is a retired psychologist and a frequent contributor to the Savannah (Ga.) Morning News. He wrote this for InsideSources.com.



Predictions are always precarious. In politics, where late-emerging events can affect enough voters to change an election outcome, predictions are even riskier. Nevertheless, there are enough trends this far away from the 2022 midterm election to make some educated guesses.

Democrats may not be in as much peril as history and pundits argue.

History strongly predicts a Republican resurgence. On average, the out-of-power party makes substantial gains during non-presidential voting years. In 2010, just two years after Barack Obama soundly defeated John McCain, the Republican Party gained 63 seats in the House of Representatives and seven in the Senate, an outcome Obama accurately portrayed as a “shellacking.”

Furthermore, it has been 20 years since a midterm election did not result in a change of control in at least one chamber of Congress, according to the Constitution Center.

As any political junkie also knows, Democrats maintain an extremely slim margin in both chambers of Congress. So slim that Democrats keep a nervous eye on the health of all of their members.

Thus, the prediction that the Democrats will lose at least one, if not both, chambers of Congress appears to be on solid ground. The question remains, however, whether 2022 will be a typical midterm election. Here are some of the variables that argue it will not.

Unlike any prior midterm election, the previous president remains the dominant guide to his party’s voters. While Donald Trump will inspire his base to turn out to vote, he will just as reliably turn out Democrats, many of whom would not have otherwise voted in a midterm election. The result of the 2018 election was a rebuke of Trump and it may be so again in 2022.

With the Jan. 6 assault on the Capitol and 147 members of Congress objecting to the certification of the presidential election, the Republican Party is stained. According to a Gallup poll conducted in March, only 25 percent of the voting population currently identifies as Republican, the lowest number in history. Democrats, meanwhile, have inched up to 32 percent and the independent label has grown to 41 percent. In a country so divided, this shift should not be taken lightly.

A meaningful part of the population votes for their candidate from the gut. From that vantage point, the powerful images of an assault on the Capitol will likely play a role in 2022. Even while partisan broadcasters on Fox News have consistently attempted to dilute the effect of the insurrection on the Capitol grounds, a relentless repeat of those images will be difficult to forget, especially for non-Fox-watching Americans.

Unlike Democrats’ actions after Obama’s landmark Affordable Care Act legislation early in his administration, President Joe Biden has diametrically changed direction. Instead of cautiously promoting legislative successes like his predecessor, Biden has gone big and bold with legislative successes. Just as important, he has also gone long term.

The childcare supplement is the brightest example of this effort. The Democrats’ sweeping pandemic relief package includes \$39 billion in direct funding to millions of American families. Most are likely to receive monthly payments at the time of the next election. While Republicans will undoubtedly do their best to repackage the perception of these payments, checks in the mail at election time will be a tangible argument difficult to excuse. Even a small sliver of Republicans modifying their vote in 2022 could be decisive.

Those who predict Democrats maintaining their hold on both chambers of Congress cannot lose sight of the counterforces contradicting their forecast: The steadfastness and intensity of Trump’s followers. The power of the Republican political machinery. The socialist label carries considerable clout among the faithful as does the argument that the leftist progressive takeover is radical and destructive to the country, an argument bolstered by claims of profligate spending. Trump’s martyrdom persona continues to play well to his supporters along with the view that minorities receive catered treatment. In deeply red states, the arguments favoring Democratic votes will gain little purchase.

There is a long list of things that can change before the 2022 election: Congressional retirements, legislative failures, judicial bombshells, international crises, and domestic turmoil are just a few of the potential surprises that could occur. Given the COVID pandemic, it is clear that unexpected events can endanger any prediction.

That said, Democrats have reasons for cautious optimism.

COUNTERPOINT:

Republican resurgence is on the ’22 horizon

By **RJ MAY III**
InsideSources.com

RJ May III serves in the South Carolina House of Representatives and is president of Ivory Tusk Consulting, a marketing and political strategy firm. He wrote this for InsideSources.com.



Readings the political tea leaves 18 months in advance is as tricky as making a weather forecast for the same time frame. But every so often, circumstances combine to increase the odds in the forecaster’s favor. Looking ahead to next year’s midterms is one of them. Because if things continue on their current course, Nov. 8, 2022, will be a very good night for Republicans around the country.

For starters, history is on the GOP’s side going into the campaign. There’s a long track record of the incumbent president’s party losing seats during a midterm election. In fact, since 1934 only two presidents have enjoyed an increase in their party’s numbers in both the House and Senate in a midterm election—Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1934 and George W. Bush in 2002.

Excluding those two exceptions, losses are big for the party that occupies 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. Especially for first-term presidents and particularly in the House. Consider Donald Trump (minus 40 in 2018), Barack Obama (minus 63 in 2010), Bill Clinton (minus 52 in 1994), Ronald Reagan (minus 26 in 1982) and Gerald Ford (minus 48 in 1974). All were shellacked at the ballot box, resulting in significantly fewer members of their party in the House of Representatives.

According to FiveThirtyEight, the GOP also has a turnout advantage in midterms. Under Republican presidents since 1978, the GOP has enjoyed a plus-1 shift toward party identification for those who vote in midterm elections. That margin swells to plus-5 under Democratic presidents.

Contemporary history doesn’t bode well for Democrats, either. Expectations for the left aren’t nearly as high going into 2022 as they were just a year ago. The 2020 election was supposed to deal a crushing blow to Republicans up and down the ballot. Instead, the GOP defeated 12 incumbent House Democrats and successfully defended every incumbent Republican seat.

If historical trends weren’t enough, Democrats are dealing Republicans a winning hand, too. The Democratic-backed

plans to pack the Supreme Court and to end the Senate filibuster are wildly unpopular. A recent Mason-Dixon poll found 65 percent of Americans, and a whopping 72 percent of independents, opposed court-packing. The same survey showed only 37 percent of Americans supported ending the filibuster while 69 percent of independents opposed it.

In an interview with the Wall Street Journal, Mason-Dixon pollster Brad Coker concluded that “moderate and unaffiliated voters did not vote for Joe Biden in 2020 ‘to turn the government upside-down’ or ‘remake America.’”

But that’s exactly what Democrats are trying to do. And it will inevitably hurt them on Election Day, especially when 56 percent of independents said they would be less likely to re-elect their senator if he or she supported those two disliked and radical Democratic priorities.

Beyond seeking to alter dramatically fundamental government mainstays that have been around for more than 150 years, Democrats must also answer for the crisis at the border, pushing citizenship for undocumented immigrants, trillion-dollar spending bonanzas, D.C. statehood, radical gun control measures, defunding the police, and increasingly rising fuel and food costs. Whatever hope there was for governing from the middle is gone. Once again, Democrats are overplaying their hand.

But Republicans’ biggest advantage in 2022 might come from redistricting. Topline 2020 census numbers show both New York (Biden won by 23.2 percent) and California (Biden by 29.2 percent) losing seats in 2022 while Texas (won by Trump by 5.6 percent), Montana (Trump by 16.4 percent), North Carolina (Trump by 1.6 percent), and Florida (Trump by 3.3) will all gain seats.

Republicans also enjoy governing trifectas in 23 states, meaning the GOP controls all three branches of state government. Democratic trifectas exist in just 15 states. This will have a substantial effect on the soon-to-be-drawn congressional districts.

As political commentator Hugh Hewitt pointed out in a recent Washington Post op-ed, the “GOP will enjoy complete control of drawing new boundaries for 181 congressional districts, compared with a maximum of 74 for Democrats.”

Finally, don’t forget about Donald Trump. He turns out the base like no one else can, whether he’s on the ballot or not. The same can’t be said for Joe Biden.

The 2022 election is shaping up for one big collective “You’re Fired!” to Democrats across America. Consulting, a marketing and political strategy firm. He wrote this for InsideSources.com.

Q: Which party is likely to prevail in the 2022 midterm elections?






COVID-19

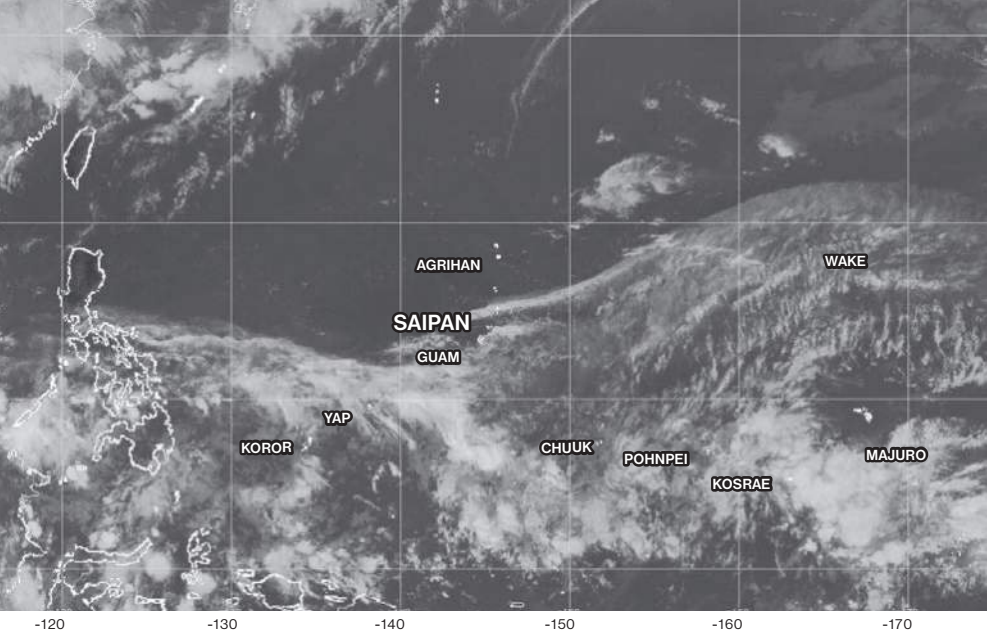
From Page 8

Pfizer’s COVID-19 vaccine was another boost in the inoculation effort, just as children make plans for summer camp and prepare for a more normal return to school later this year. The availability of vaccines for entire families might also encourage more holdout parents to get their shots, too. Many businesses are doing their part by requiring vaccinations before allowing employees back into the workplace.

The relaxed federal guidance, though, marks a new stage for personal responsibility. As was evident across the Tampa Bay area this weekend, many shops are asking customers to continue wearing masks, given the risks still posed to younger children, those with compromised immune systems and others unable or unwilling to get a vaccine. There is no easier contribution to make than for Floridians eligible for vaccines to get them. They are safe, highly effective, widely available and free. And they are central to the nation’s recovery.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy. A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.	
87°	79°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°	86°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:19 AM, WEDNESDAY, MAY 19, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Moderate to fresh trades continue, and will become light to moderate by tomorrow. Mostly cloudy skies are in store for today becoming partly cloudy this evening.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87 81 °F	
Palau	Thunderstorms	86 78 °F	
Yap	Partly cloudy	87 72 °F	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87 81 °F	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86 79 °F	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86 80 °F	
Majuro	Partly cloudy	86 80 °F	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:47 AM	6:39 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM
Saturday	5:46 AM	6:40 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:40 PM
Monday	5:46 AM	6:41 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	12:48 AM	12:36 PM
Friday	-	1:31 AM	1:31 PM
Saturday	-	2:13 AM	2:27 PM
Sunday	-	2:55 AM	3:24 PM
Monday	-	3:39 AM	4:23 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	68 59 °F	
Beijing	Partly cloudy	85 64 °F	
Hong Kong	Mostly cloudy	81 74 °F	
Honolulu	Sunny	84 71 °F	
London	Rain	63 51 °F	
Los Angeles	Partly cloudy	68 57 °F	
Manila	Thunderstorms	90 78 °F	
Melbourne	Cloudy	61 49 °F	
Miami	Thunderstorms	85 77 °F	
New York	Sunny	89 68 °F	
Osaka	Partly cloudy	77 55 °F	
Paris	Partly cloudy	79 54 °F	
Pusan	Sunny	77 53 °F	
Rome	Mostly Sunny	84 58 °F	
Salem	Rain	61 43 °F	
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	64 50 °F	
Seoul	Sunny	79 54 °F	
Tokyo	Cloudy	71 57 °F	
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	93 71 °F	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:53 AM	High Tide	1.95	
8:52 AM	Low Tide	1.30	
12:57 PM	High Tide	1.59	
8:13 PM	Low Tide	0.28	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 29, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 4, 5, 6	UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam	UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	5	UA184	9:50pm	3:45am+1	5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3,	UA184	10:25pm	4:10am+1	1, 3
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>							

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
ROTA TO GUAM				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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Deadline looms to apply for Restaurant Revitalization Fund

Eligible eating establishments have until Monday, May 24, 8pm ET, to submit applications to the Restaurant Revitalization Fund.

"If our nation's food and beverage industry is going to fully recover, we must ensure as many of the hardest-hit busi-

nesses get the economic aid they need," said Administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman of the Small Business Administration. "We are committed to creating easy to navigate programs and removing barriers that have kept many of our nation's smallest businesses

from accessing these crucial economic lifelines. The SBA will continue to be as entrepreneurial as the small businesses we serve, and we will continue to work as fast as possible to deliver the relief our businesses need so urgently."

"The numbers speak to the

commitment SBA made to educating owners and operators through their work with the association, our state partners, and other industry support organizations," said Tom Bené, president & CEO of the National Restaurant Association. "The funds that have already

been distributed will help accelerate the recovery of thousands of restaurants and bring much-needed capital to communities across the country."

The \$28.6-billion Restaurant Revitalization Fund established an initial \$5 billion set-aside established by Congress for applicants with gross receipts not more than \$500,000. To further ensure an equitable distribution of funds, Guzman created two additional funding allocations to ensure the smallest of the small restaurants and other eating establishments have equitable access: 1) \$500 million for applicants with 2019 gross receipts not more than \$500,000, and 2) \$4 billion for applicants with 2019 gross receipts between \$500,000 and \$1,500,000.

In the first two weeks of the RRF program, and after 600 targeted community outreach events in multiple languages, SBA has received from priority groups:

- 12,898 applications from businesses with not more than \$50,000 in pre-pandemic revenue requesting \$290 million in funds

- 73,671 applications from businesses with not more than \$500,000 in annual pre-pandemic revenue requesting \$6.1 billion in funds

- 34,010 applications from businesses with \$500,000 - \$1,500,000 in annual pre-pandemic revenue requesting \$8.4 billion in funds

Designed to ensure the smallest of small eating establishments get the relief needed, set-asides continue a commitment to an equitable distribu-

tion of funds to hard-hit communities. Because SBA still has potential set-aside funding available for eligible establishments with 2019 annual revenue of not more than \$50,000, it will keep the application portal open until Monday, May 24, 8 p.m. ET. While all qualified restaurants may submit applications, more than \$220 million of a \$500 million set-aside remains in the Restaurant Revitalization Fund (RRF). Eligible establishments that meet this revenue standard are encouraged to apply through SBA-recognized point-of-sale vendors or directly via the SBA online application portal.

To date, the RRF program has received more than 303,000 applications representing over \$69 billion in requested funds, and nearly 38,000 applicants have been approved for more than \$6 billion. Of the overall submitted applications, 57 percent came from women, veterans, and socially and economically disadvantaged business owners.

During the first two weeks of the program, SBA has received applications from:

- More than 122,000 women business owners

- More than 14,000 veteran business owners

- More than 71,000 economically and socially disadvantaged individuals

For those interested in applying to the Restaurant Revitalization Fund, visit sba.gov/restaurants. (PR)

ON THE NET

■ To apply: sba.gov/restaurants

AMP unveils marina improvement plans in open house

By JOSHUA SANTOS
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The American Memorial Park hosted a virtual open house over Zoom to share with government agencies and the public its plans to renovate portions of the Smiling Cove and Outer Cove Marina.

The proposed plan involves removing currently damaged shoreline barriers along the entrance channel between the two marinas, installing rock revetments along the entrance channel and east causeway, and adding more sidewalks flanked with native plants. June Nakamura, professional engineer from the Hawaii-based architectural and engineering firm Kaula AE, LLC is the project manager.

Representatives from the

Department of Lands and Natural Resources, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Fisheries, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality, Division of Coastal Resources Management, Office of Insular Affairs under the Department of the Interior, Indigenous Affairs Office, and the U.S. Delegate Office attended the meeting.

It was shared at the meeting that the plans are currently in the development phase, but of the three proposed shoreline barrier types, the installation of rock revetments—a structure composed of various layers of large stone and geo-textiles—was deemed most favorable. The two other ideas were the installation of a sheet pile wall, which is a large barrier of thick sheet metal that extends along

a shoreline, and a concrete retaining wall, which would be a newer version of what has been in place at the marinas for 30 years. Both ideas were eventually ruled out.

As shared at the meeting, advantages of rock revetments include providing a more sustainable habitat for marine life, having low initial and future maintenance costs, being most capable of absorbing wave energy that hits the shoreline, and being adaptive and resilient as sea levels are expected to rise in the future.

"We are pleased to present this project to the public and believe it will significantly improve the safety and experience of visitors and boaters using the marinas. We appreciate the active participation of DLNR Secretary [Anthony

T.] Benavente throughout the planning and design process and look forward to continued coordination with his and other agencies as we move forward," said National Park Service superintendent Barbara Alberti.

The project, which is slated to begin construction in early 2022, will be federally funded through resources allotted for repairing infrastructure and disaster recovery. When searching for and awarding a construction company a contract, the park will follow procedures outlined by the Federal Acquisitions Regulations. According to Alberti, disclosure of specific costs of the project prior to awarding a contract is prohibited, but was able to share an expected price range of \$1 million to \$5 million.



BEACH CLEANUP

MCS

As part of Mount Carmel School's commitment to the Public Private Partnership Program with the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers, members of the school's Sacred Heart Chapter of the National Elementary Honor Society and National Junior Honor Society sponsor the school's second cleanup of Sugar Dock Beach, which the school has adopted, along with the Lions Club, as part of the GCEA PPPP.

MCS

Members of Mount Carmel School's National Junior Honor Society clean around the pavilions at Sugar Dock Beach during their recent beach cleanup with the National Elementary Honor Society.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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NOTICE OF INVITATION FOR BID ADVERTISING CONCESSION AT THE TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Project No.: CPA-IFB-003-21
CPA Concession No.: TAD-2020-01-02

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Ports Authority (the "CPA") is accepting sealed bids, subject to the terms and conditions of the Invitation for Bid (the "IFB"), and other contract provisions, for bids from firms, companies, and/or corporations for Advertising Opportunities at the Tinian International Airport.

The IFB will be issued and available for pick-up beginning April 13, 2021, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday to Friday, at the Administration Office, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport. CPA offices are closed every Monday for austerity reasons and also on holidays. The IFB includes layouts and requirements. All responses to this IFB shall also take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Prospective bidders will be required to pay an administrative fee of \$100.00 for costs associated with handling and consideration of the bid. Payments are accepted in the form of cash or cashier's checks made out to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Questions and/or clarification concerning this project shall be in writing and sent to the attention of the Executive Director through email at cpa.admin@pticom.com with copy to Joy Ann Tenorio at joy.tenorio@cmports.com no later than May 06, 2021.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "INVITATION FOR BID SUBMISSION: CONFIDENTIAL, ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY CPA-IFB-003-21." One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m. Chamorro Standard Time, May 25, 2021, to the Authority Administration Section, Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

Bids will be opened on May 25, 2021, at 3:00 p.m. at the Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Departure Building, Saipan International Airport. Bids are not required to include a prepaid minimum concession fee. The concessions are for the right to advertise at certain designated locations within the Tinian International Airport for a period of two (2) years and requires the concessionaire(s) to operate such concessions to the satisfaction of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so, would be in CPA's best interest. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All bids shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date

Business

Escape to luxury at Bulgario Nail Collection

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Luxury, style, quality, and comfort is what embodies Bulgario Nails Collection. Located along Msgr. Deleon Guerrero Road in San Jose, Bulgario opened early this month for people who want to treat themselves to a manicure and pedicure experience plus more like no other salon on island can offer.

Once you enter, you are greeted with a warm welcome from the staff and their calming ambiance that is made up of pink and white hues. The salon is furnished by fancy but comfortable equipment and if you appreciate modern art, their walls will make your day.

According to manager Aaron Danaher, Bulgario offers services and courtesies that you won't find in other places on island. "When you come in and avail of any of the services—nail care, spa, wax, eyelash extensions, and in the future, botox and fillers, our experienced and certified staff are right here to take care of you... We are a luxury-type of a nail spa but without the costly prices because everything is reasonable," she said.

"This is not a business transaction where the customer comes in and we provide a service. We want to build a relationship... the kind that we know your first and last names, your birthday, or even your pet's name... and of course, providing quality care because we want clients to have the best experience and to return," she added.

Bulgario Nail Collection services include manicure and pedicure (from basic care to mari color gel enriched with vitamins A, E, B5 for healthy nails and cincinana color gel for pretty nails that last for weeks without making them brittle), nail design, acrylic and extensions gel, facial treatment using popular brand "Seacret" (from basic to premium treatment), eyelash extensions using MIA Lash Laboratory, facial and body hair wax, and foot spa. They also do ear piercings and make-up service.

"Future plans include botox and fillers done by a qualified medical and accredited provider... we want Bulgario to be a one-stop shop for people's beauty and wellness needs... we also accommodate private events or get-togethers such as birthdays or bridal parties," Danaher said.

"Again, our staff had training on the awareness needed to maintain sanitation of



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Bulgario Nail Collection manager Aaron Danaher.

equipment during this pandemic... we know we are dealing physically with clients by touch so heightened knowledge of how to prevent and mitigate COVID-19 virus is a must for us," Danaher added.

At Bulgario Nails Collection, membership has its privileges. They offer annual memberships where clients can avail of perks, gifts, free refreshments, and Kensington Hotel pastries and cakes and additional service every time they visit the salon. "We have three levels of membership—gold, platinum, and diamond. As a gold member, you are entitled to a gift bag, 10% off on all services, free refreshment, and luxury foot care. Perks are added as you go up to platinum and diamond which includes 15% to 25% discounts, make-up and luxury foot care services, pick up and drop off services (diamond members), and enjoy all of these in our private VIP room... for the perfect gift to family and friends, we offer gift certificates," Danaher said.

"It doesn't matter which month you sign up for membership because the duration will last for a year... We understand that the tourists will return eventually but we are not catering to them. We cater to locals that want the best nail and facial care... The management and all employees are loyal to the island so we value every customer, every encounter that turns into a relationship. ... With Bulgario Nail Collection, gone are the days that you walk into a salon and they don't know your name, you sit in an uncomfortable chair, the surrounding smells like chemicals and the ambiance is not just there," Danaher added.

Bulgario Nails Collection is located at the 2/F Saipan Dreams Commercial Building (beside Atkins Kroll) along Msgr. Deleon Guerrero, San Jose. They are open Tuesday to Sunday from 10am to 7pm. For more information, call (670) 488-6688 or visit their website: www.bulgario.com and FaceBook: Bulgario Nail Collection.



BEA CABRERA

The calming ambiance of Bulgario Nail Collection will transport you to an instant wellness vacation.



BEA CABRERA

Bulgario Nail Collection is open Tuesday to Sunday from 10am to 7pm.

Nation

House to vote on independent panel to probe Jan. 6 attack

WASHINGTON (AP)—The House is poised to vote on a 9/11-style commission on the deadly Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, a first step toward creating an independent, bipartisan panel that would investigate the siege and try to prevent it from happening again.

While the measure is expected to be approved Wednesday by the House, a commission will likely be a more difficult sell in the Senate. Republicans there are signaling that they will try to block — or at least slow down — the effort.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell said Tuesday that he is "pushing the pause button" on the legislation to form the commission. While controlling the Senate, Democrats would need at least 10 GOP votes to pass the measure under Senate rules.

McConnell told reporters that his caucus is "undecided" but willing to listen to arguments about "whether such a commission is needed." He questioned whether the panel's work would interfere with the hundreds of criminal cases stemming from the

Jan. 6 attack, in which rioters brutally beat police, broke in through windows and doors and hunted for lawmakers as they fled. McConnell said he also wanted to read the "fine print" of the bill and ensure that both parties on the commission have an equal say.

McConnell also questioned a separate, \$1.9 billion spending bill that the House is expected to pass this week for security upgrades. "We're not sure what to spend the money on yet," he said.

McConnell's hesitancy came hours after House Republican leader Kevin McCarthy said he would oppose the bill. The two leaders' positions will almost certainly mean fewer Republicans will support the commission in both chambers, as most in the party are still loath to upset former President Donald Trump. He had encouraged his supporters to head to Capitol Hill that day to stop the counting of the electoral votes and overturn his defeat to Democrat Joe Biden.

Trump released a statement Tuesday night urging Republicans against approving what he called a "Democrat trap."

The votes in the House and Senate will also expose divisions in the party, as some Republicans have said they think an independent review is necessary.

In private GOP caucus meetings across the Capitol on Tuesday, members argued for and against the idea.

Several Republican lawmakers joined McCarthy in speaking against the commission early Tuesday during a meeting of House Republicans, according to one Republican familiar with the private session who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss it. The Republican who negotiated the bill with Democrats, New York Rep. John Katko, argued in favor.

"I recognize there are differing views on this issue, which is an inherent part of the legislative process and not something I take personally," Katko said in a statement. "However, as the Republican Leader of the Homeland Security Committee, I feel a deep obligation to get the answers U.S. Capitol Police and Americans deserve and ensure an attack on the heart of our democracy never happens again."

Congress OKs bill to fight hate crimes vs. Asian Americans

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congress approved legislation Tuesday intended to curtail a striking rise in hate crimes against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, sending President Joe Biden a bipartisan denunciation of the spate of brutal attacks that have proliferated during coronavirus pandemic.

The bill, which the House passed on a 364-62 vote, will expedite the review of hate crimes at the Justice Department and make grants available to help local law enforcement agencies improve their investigation, identification and reporting of incidents driven by bias, which often go underreported. It previously passed the Senate 94-1 in April after lawmakers reached a compromise. Biden has said he will sign it.

"Asian Americans have been screaming out for help, and the House and Senate and President Biden have clearly heard our pleas," said Rep. Grace Meng, D-N.Y., who helped lead efforts to pass the bill in the House.

To many Asian Americans,

the pandemic has invigorated deep-seated biases that in some cases date back to the Chinese Exclusion Act of more than a century ago. President Donald Trump repeatedly referred to the virus, which emerged in Wuhan, China, as the "China Virus" or the "Kung Flu." And as cases of the illness began to rise in the U.S., so too did the attacks, with thousands of violent incidents reported in the past year.

Rep. Judy Chu, D-Calif., said it's painful for many to "open up the newspaper everyday and see that yet another Asian American has been assaulted, attacked and even killed."

In February, an 84-year-old man died after he was pushed to the ground near his home in San Francisco. A young family was injured in a Texas grocery store attack last year. And in Georgia, six Asian women were killed in March during a series of shootings targeting workers at massage parlors. Prosecutors are seeking hate crimes charges. The women who were killed are men-

tioned in the text of the bill. "You start to think, 'Well, will I be next?'" Chu said.

Yet to some activists, including organizations representing gay and transgender Asian Americans, the legislation is misguided. More than 100 groups have signed onto a statement opposing the bill for relying too heavily on law enforcement while providing too little funding to address the underlying issues driving a rise in hate crimes.

"We have had hate crimes laws since 1968, it's been expanded over and over again, and this new legislation is more of the same," said Jason Wu, who is co-chair of GAPIMNY-Empowering Queer & Trans Asian Pacific Islanders. "These issues are about bias, but also rooted in inequality, and lack of investment and resources for our communities. Not a shortage of police and jails."

Meng acknowledged some of the concerns raised by the groups, but countered that the widespread underreporting of hate crimes needs to be addressed.

Asia

AS VIRUS RESURGES

Restrictions in much of Asia re-imposed

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taxi drivers are starved for customers, weddings are suddenly canceled, schools are closed, and restaurant service is restricted across much of Asia as the coronavirus makes a resurgence in countries where it had seemed to be well under control.

Sparsely populated Mongolia has seen its death toll soar from 15 to 233, while Taiwan, considered a major success in battling the virus, has recorded more than 1,000 cases since last week and placed over 600,000 people in two-week medical isolation.

Hong Kong and Singapore have postponed a quarantine-free travel bubble for a second time after an outbreak in Singapore of uncertain origin. China, which has all but stamped out local infections, has seen new cases apparently linked to contact with people arriving from abroad.

The resurgence hasn't come close to the carnage wrought in India and parts of Europe, but it is a keen reminder that the virus remains resilient, despite strict mask mandates, case tracing, mass testing and wider deployment of the newest weapon against it — vaccinations.

That's setting back efforts to get social and economic life back to normal, particularly in schools and sectors like the hospitality industry that are built on public contact.

In Taiwan, the surge is being driven by the more easily transmissible variant first



Buddhist monks wait to receive Sinovac COVID-19 vaccines at Priest hospital in Bangkok, Thailand Tuesday, May 18, 2021. AP

identified in Britain, according to Chen Chien-jen, an epidemiologist and the island's former vice president, who led the highly praised pandemic response last year.

Complicating matters are some senior citizens who frequent slightly racy "tea salons" in Taipei's Wanhua neighborhood. They accounted for about 375 of the new cases as of Tuesday, Chen said. The tea shops are known for providing adult entertainment with singing and dancing.

"These seniors, when they go to these places, want to keep it veiled," Chen said. "When we are conducting the investigation, they may not be honest."

In Wanhua, normally a bustling area with food stalls, shops and entertainment venues, the Huaxi night market and historic Longshan Buddhist temple are closed.

Kao Yu-chieh, who runs a breakfast shop in the area, said business is down at least 50% since last week.

Cab driver Wang Hsian Jhong said he hasn't had a customer in three days. "Everyone is affected. This is a Taiwan-wide problem. We have to get through it," he said, puffing on a cigarette on a street in Wanhua.

Schools, gyms and pools are closed in Taipei, and gatherings of more than five people indoors and more than 10 people outdoors are banned. The island shut all schools starting Wednesday.

Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen has sought to reassure a public that is reverting to panic-buying and shunning public places.

"We will continue to strengthen our medical capacity," Tsai said, adding that vaccines are arriving from abroad.

Malaysia unexpectedly imposed a one-month lockdown through June 7, spooked by a sharp rise in cases, more-infectious variants and weak public compliance with health measures.

India reports record day of virus deaths as cases level off

NEW DELHI (AP)—India's total virus cases since the pandemic began swept past 25 million on Tuesday as the country registered more than 260,000 new cases and a record 4,329 fatalities in the past 24 hours.

The numbers continue a trend of falling cases after infections dipped below 300,000 for the first time in weeks on Monday. Active cases in the country also decreased by more than 165,000 on Tuesday—the biggest dip in weeks.

But deaths have continued to rise and hospitals are still swamped by patients.

India has recorded nearly 280,000 virus deaths since the pandemic began. Experts warn that both the number of deaths and total reported cases

are likely vast undercounts.

Infections in India have surged since February in a disastrous turn blamed on more contagious variants as well as government decisions to allow massive crowds to gather for religious festivals and political rallies.

In the last month, cases have more than tripled and reported deaths have gone up six times—but testing has only increased by 1.6 times, according to Bhramar Mukherjee, a biostatistician at the University of Michigan tracking India's battle with the virus. With infections outrunning testing capabilities, there are fears that many cases are going undetected.

Experts also say India has lagged behind in doing the testing needed to track and better understand a worrisome

virus variant first detected in the country. On Monday, the Health Ministry said 17 new labs will be brought online to help track variants.

The variant first identified in India has prompted global concern—most notably in Britain, where it has more than doubled in a week, defying a sharp nationwide downward trend in infections.

Meanwhile, ever since India opened up vaccinations to all adults this month, the pace of administering shots has plunged. Many states have said they don't have enough stock to give out. The southern state of Karnataka, for example, has temporarily halted its drive to inoculate those aged between 18 and 44 at government-run centers due to a shortage of doses.

World

IN ISRAEL-HAMAS CONFLICT

Gaza children bearing the brunt

GAZA CITY, Gaza (AP)—Suzy Ishkontana hardly speaks or eats. It's been two days since the 7-year-old girl was pulled from the rubble of what was once her family's home, destroyed amid a barrage of Israeli airstrikes. She spent hours buried in the wreckage as her siblings and mother died around her.

Children are being subjected to extensive trauma in Israel's bombardment of the Gaza Strip. For some, it's trauma they've seen repeatedly throughout their short lives.

This is the fourth time in 12 years Israel and Gaza's Hamas rulers have gone to war. Each time, Israel has unleashed heavy airstrikes at the densely populated Gaza Strip as it vows to stop Hamas rocket barrages launched toward Israel.

According to Gaza health officials, at least 63 children are among the 217 Palestinians who have been killed in Gaza since the latest conflict between Israel and Hamas began on May 10. On the Israeli side, 12 people have been killed by Hamas rockets, all but one of them civilians, including a 5-year-old boy.

Israel says it does everything it can to prevent civil-

ian casualties, including issuing warnings for people to evacuate buildings about to be struck. As Hamas has fired hundreds of rockets into Israel, most of them intercepted by anti-missile defenses, Israel's military has pounded hundreds of sites in Gaza, where some 2 million people live squeezed into a tight urban fabric.

Videos on social media from Gaza have shown the grief of survivors from families wiped out in an instant.

"They were four! Where are they? Four!" wailed one father outside a hospital after learning all four of his children had been killed. Another showed a young boy screaming "Baba," as he ran to the front of the funeral procession where men were carrying his father's body to burial.

The Ishkontana family was buried under the rubble of their home early Sunday, after massive bombing raids of downtown Gaza City that Israel said were targeting a Hamas tunnel network. The strikes came without warning.

Riad Ishkontana recounted to The Associated Press how he was buried for five hours under the wreckage, pinned under a chunk of concrete,

unable to reach his wife and five children.

"I was listening to their voices beneath the rubble. I heard Dana and Zain calling, 'Dad! Dad!' before their voices faded and then I realized they had died," he said, referring to two of his children.

After he was rescued and taken to the hospital, he said, family and staff hid the truth from him as long as they could. "I learned about their deaths one after another," he said. Finally, Suzy was brought in alive, the second-oldest of his three daughters and two sons, and the only survivor.

Though she had only limited physical bruising from her seven hours under the rubble, the young girl was in "severe trauma and shock," said pediatrician Dr. Zuhair Al-Jaro. The hospital was unable to get her the psychological treatment she needs because of the ongoing fighting, he said.

"She has entered into a deep depression," he said. Only today, he said Tuesday, did she eat something after she was allowed briefly outside the hospital and saw her cousins.

US-Russia showdown looms as top diplomats meet in Iceland

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP)—Top diplomats from the United States and Russia are set to square off this week in Iceland for their first face-to-face encounter that comes as ties between the nations have deteriorated sharply in recent months.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Russia's longtime Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov plan to talk Wednesday on the sidelines of an Arctic Council meeting in the Icelandic capital of Reykjavik, a city with deep history in U.S.-Russian relations.

Even before the talks—that are ostensibly to prepare for a summit between President Joe Biden and Russian leader Vladimir Putin next month—the two diplomats laid down near diametrically opposed positions for the meeting, previewing what is likely to be a difficult and contentious exchange.

This follows a spate of tit-for-tat diplomatic expulsions as U.S.-Russian relations threaten a return to Cold War lows. The nuclear pow-

ers are at odds on myriad issues including Ukraine, the Arctic, Russia's treatment of opposition figure Alexey Navalny and accusations of cybermalfeasance, including claims that Russia-based hackers were responsible for a ransomware attack on a key U.S. pipeline.

"It would be our preference to have a more stable and more predictable relationship with Russia," Blinken said on Tuesday. "At the same time, we've been very clear that if Russia chooses to take reckless or aggressive actions that target our interests or those of our allies and partners, we'll respond. Not for purposes of seeking conflict or escalating but because such challenges cannot be allowed to go forward with impunity."

Blinken also tweeted Tuesday U.S. condemnation of Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea from Ukraine. "We condemn Russia's abuses in Crimea, especially on May 18 as we reflect on the 77th anniversary of Stalin's deportation

of countless Crimean Tatars from their native peninsula," he posted.

Perhaps anticipating Blinken's position, Lavrov had offered a prebutter at a news conference Monday in Moscow.

"Apparently, a (U.S.) decision was made to promote stable, predictable relations with Russia," he said. "However, if this includes constant and predictable sanctions, that's not what we need. Our attitude toward the U.S. includes the hope that normalized relations will be based on specific actions rather than words of which we have heard too many."

Blinken said his meeting with Lavrov would be an important opportunity to test the proposition that the U.S. and Russia can work collaboratively on certain issues, like climate change, the Mideast, Iran and North Korea, despite bitter disagreements on others. The meeting comes as much of the world is focused on the Israel-Palestinian war.

Environment

By IVA MAURIN
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CORRESPONDENT

We see them all around, in stripes of black and gold, buzzing from flower to flower. Yes, bees.

As tiny as they are, the significant role bees play in our lives are huge. Like birds and butterflies, bees are crucial pollinators, and crops they pollinate make up 35% of the global food production. Further, studies say that 75% of our food crops, and to some extent, nearly 90% of wild flowering plants depend on this pollination. So you see, bees more than just buzz around flowers, they help provide for our food. We need them.

Here in the CNMI, the most common types of bees are western honey bees, carpenter bees, and leafcutter bees.

» **May 20 is World Bee Day!**

Saipan Tribune sat down with scientist James Herndon to talk more about these bees, their role, where we can find them, and how we can help them survive here on island.

Herndon, who is currently doing research on bees on island, has previously worked for the United States Department of Agriculture-Agricultural Research Service [USDA-ARS] Pollinating Insect Research Unit laboratory in Logan, Utah, for a research on bumble bee reproduction, bumble bee nest site preferences, and bumble bee husbandry for greenhouse pollination. He also worked on a native bee inventory of Carlsbad Caverns National Park in New Mexico and assisted with behavioral studies of tropical bees in Panama.

"There are many different types of animal pollinators in the CNMI including the *fanihi*, Micronesian honey-eaters, butterflies, and various types of wasps to name some. However, bees are special amongst other pollinators because they actively collect both pollen and nectar," Herndon said.

"The fact that they collect both means they are transporting more pollen from flower to flower and increasing fertilization of some plants. Understanding the pollen preferences of both native and non-native CNMI bees may help increase populations of endangered native plant species and it may increase yields of cultivated plants also."

According to Herndon, bee diversity in the CNMI and Guam ranges somewhere between 16 and 20 species, and that based on prior sampling, bee biodiversity and the number of endemic species is highest in the southern islands of Guam, Rota, Saipan, and Tinian with diversity and endemism getting lower in the Mariana islands north of Saipan.

Given how important bees are in our lives, and how, globally, they are increasingly under threat from our activities, we must do all that we can to help save bees.

Bee diversity

Many of the bees in the CNMI are introduced species, Herndon said, adding that the three most common



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
James Herndon holding a tiny sweat bee from Saipan. Some bees in the CNMI are extremely small and therefore hard to study. The zoomed in microscope photos show this female sweat bee with pollen attached to her hairs.

The buzz about bees in the CNMI



IVA MAURIN

Western honey bee buzzing over flowers on Capitol Hill to collect and store honey. Native to Europe and Africa and introduced into the CNMI from Hawaii, western honey bees are one of the most commonly seen bee species on island along with carpenter bees and leafcutter bees.

types of bees seen here are western honey bees, carpenter bees, and leafcutter bees.

"The western honey bee... is the only bee species that lives in colonies and makes honey, wax, and propolis. This is also the only managed bee species in the CNMI by beekeepers... Carpenter bees are the large, shiny, black bees that are the loudest fliers. They excavate wooden tunnels in old trees and even in man-made wooden structures."

Both bees were introduced into the CNMI from Hawaii, where they are also not native. Herndon said that carpenter bees are native to the Americas while western honey bees are native to Europe and Africa.

"The leaf cutter bees in the CNMI include multiple species most are introduced but some are native. The species you are most likely to see is the largest of the leaf-cutters found here, the non-native and widespread *Megachile laticeps*."

Mostly black with some rusty red coloration on its head and thorax,

Megachile laticeps carry pollen on its belly instead of on its legs like honey bees. For their nest, like many other leaf-cutter bees, they nest in pre-excavated cavities, cutting small half oval shaped leaf pieces from trees and carrying them back to the nest, and weaving them together to line and protect the offspring from moisture, mold, and harmful bacteria.

Herndon noted that as there is not a lot to share about the native species yet because their basic biology has not been studied, but said that some assumptions can be made about some of them because of the biology of species belonging to the same genus.

Some examples of some of the native species include *Ceratina mariannensis*, which have only been documented in Saipan and Rota; *Hylaeus rotensis*, which are endemic to Rota; and *Heriades paganensis*, which are endemic to Pagan.

Herndon stressed that studying the potential of bees on island, even some non-native ones, can help diversify and increase food production

in the CNMI.

"The large carpenter bees, while not native, could be a boon to foods grown here in the CNMI. Carpenter bees are one of the best pollinators of passion fruits and are able to pollinate plants like tomatoes and eggplants which honey bees do not pollinate."

More research needed

"Bees are a very diverse group of insects with 20,000 species described and an estimated 10,000 more species yet to be discovered."

Herndon hopes to establish a baseline study for native bees that would span an entire year, to get a good grasp on the bee populations of the CNMI, and to better understand their biology and the plants they interact with.

"Developing a baseline for what bee pathogens and parasites are currently on which islands would be helpful in understanding more about how to conserve the native bee species. What I have seen so far, from my personal insect collecting, are



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Non-native carpenter bee pollinating the extremely invasive Lantana shrub in Tinian. While non-native bees may pollinate crops that we eat they also contribute to propagating invasive species which can outcompete native plants. Further research on these introduced bees needs to be conducted to get the full picture of how they impact both our food supply and their surrounding environment.

a lot of introduced species and very few native species."

"We know next to nothing about the native species here so basically everything about them needs to be researched. A continual effort to sample bees throughout the year can provide information on when more adults are present or absent, how abundant species are, if they are endangered, and it may even lead to discovering new bee species."

Having been particularly interested in finding *Ceratina mariannensis*, Herndon also stressed the need to investigate where native bees nest and the plants they forage on, among others.

"In Hawaii, the only native bees are the yellow-faced bees in genus *Hylaeus*. When researchers took the time to research them, they found that they pollinated many of the endangered plants of Hawaii but the bees were also deemed to be endangered as well after surveying the Hawaiian *Hylaeus*. This led to the first ever listing of any bee species by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife."

"Researching the ecological effects of the non-native species is also important because non-native bees have been shown to outcompete and spread disease to native bees," he added.

How can we help bees?

With so much help we get from bees, the least that we can do is try our very best to protect them.

"Refrain from using pesticides," Herndon said. "There is a lot of evidence that pesticides wipe out bees and other beneficial insects."

The USDA reports that the health and abundance of pollinators have declined in the recent decades due to a range of factors, which include pesticides, as exposure to these chemicals affects pollinator functions—reproduction or pollinator death.

Herndon also added that among the few things majority of us can do to help bees on island is to make sure to do what we can to promote more native flowering plants of the CNMI.

"Familiarize yourself with native plants and avoid removing them from your property," he said. "Try to make sure to preserve potential bee habitat by not being too tidy with your landscaping. Many of the bees likely nest in stems, sticks, and rotting wood here. Maybe take a day off of landscaping and clearing brush to help the native bees out."

"Recently someone researching *Megachile laticeps* found that papaya stems will attract these large leaf-cutter bees. If you'd like to observe them then feel free to put papaya stems out in a bundle attached to a tree and suspended off of the ground."

So, if you want to have your own little experiment at home, Herndon suggested setting up "bee observation nests" by putting pithy stems in the ground perpendicularly or bundling them up and suspending them off of the ground. This way, you're learning, enjoying, all while helping save bees.

Happy World Bee Day, CNMI!

Life & Style

Model Naomi Campbell says she is mother to a baby girl at 50

LONDON (AP)—Naomi Campbell says she has become the mother of a baby girl.

The 50-year-old British su-

permodel announced the news Tuesday on Instagram, posting a picture of her hand holding a baby's feet.

She wrote: "A beautiful little blessing has chosen me to be her mother, so honoured to have this gentle soul in my life there are no words to describe the lifelong bond that I now share with you my angel. There is no greater love."

Campbell's spokesperson declined to provide more in-

formation.

Congratulations poured in from other fashion industry figures.

Designer Marc Jacobs posted: "Oh my God!!!! Today is the day?? How absolutely incredible. How



Campbell

lucky she is and how lucky you are! What a wonderful Mother you will be. Blessings all around."

British Vogue Editor-in-Chief Edward Enninful wrote: "Seeing the two of you together made

my year. You will bring each other so much joy."

In 2017, Campbell spoke about her desire to be a mother.

"I think about having children all the time," she told the Evening Standard, a British newspaper. "But now with the way science is, I think I can do it when I want."

Webby Awards go to Fauci, Oprah, DuVernay and Pharrell

NEW YORK (AP)—Dr. Anthony Fauci, Oprah Winfrey, Ava DuVernay, Riz Ahmed, Dua Lipa, Andra Day and Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson all won honors Tuesday at the Webby Awards, which recognize the best internet content and creators.

The Webby Person of the Year went to Fauci for using digital and social media to reach the masses with credible and factual COVID-19 information. DuVernay won the Film and Video Person of the Year trophy for her efforts creating a database to diversify Hollywood.

This year marks the 25th anniversary Webby Awards, selected by the International Academy of Digital Arts & Sciences. It was hosted by actor and activist Jameela Jamil, with appearances from Naomi Watts, Padma Lakshmi and Gayle King, among others.

"It's a unique year for the internet. It's that one thing that has kept us connected all year," said Claire Graves, president of The Webby Awards. "Our winners are a testament to that, really. They've kept us connected in so many different ways. They've informed us—like Dr. Fauci—uplifted us and helped us spark global movements as well."

The awards started in 1996

by recognizing websites. It has grown to embrace new technologies, from apps and software to social media and games. This year, organizers added virtual and remote experiences.

Ahmed and Day won acting awards for "Sound of Metal" and "The United States vs. Billie Holiday," respectively. Johnson's use of social media earned him a special achievement award, as did chef José Andrés, who was recognized for tackling food insecurity.

Other winners include Oprah's Book Club, "Ratatouille: The TikTok Musical," "NBC Nightly News: Kids Edition," "We Are George Floyd" and the podcasts "Pod Save America," "The Motherly Podcast" by Kristen Bell and "Jemele Hill is Unbothered."

Dua Lipa earned two video awards for "Hallucinate" and "Dua Lipa Has New Rules for COVID Dating." Color of Change's #JusticeForFloyd Campaign won the Webby Award for public service and activism. Neil deGrasse Tyson won a Webby for his science and education podcast. Chef Gordon Ramsay, the band BTS and actor Jennifer Garner were among Webby winners voted on by the public.

T.I., wife Tiny investigated after sexual abuse allegation

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Rapper T.I. and his wife Tameka "Tiny" Harris are under investigation by police in Los Angeles after a sexual abuse allegation.

Los Angeles Police Officer Rosario Cervantes said Tuesday that an active investigation is underway. The investigation comes after a woman in Los Angeles and another in Las Vegas filed a police report that accused the couple of sexual assault.

A report was taken April 8 for a sexual assault involving the couple that occurred in 2005, Cervantes said. The police did not provide any additional details.

Las Vegas police received a report this month of a sexual assault incident in 2010 involving the couple. But the case was closed because it was reported outside the statute of limitations.

Steve Sadow, the attorney for T.I. and his wife, said his clients "steadfastly deny and repudiate" all the allegations. He said the couple has not spoken or been contacted by police in Los Angeles, Las Vegas or any other jurisdiction in the country.

"The LAPD 'accuser' once again remains anonymous,

thereby preventing us from being in a position to disprove or refute her allegations—or even examine them," Sadow said. "Meanwhile, although we now have for the first time a name of an 'accuser,' who apparently filed a police report with (Las Vegas Metropolitan Police), we have essentially no specifics about her or her claim, and her attorney has

thus far refused to disclose a copy of the report for public scrutiny."

The Associated Press generally does not identify people who say they have been sexually assaulted.

In March, attorney Tyrone A. Blackburn said more than 30 women contacted him accusing T.I. and his wife of "forced drugging, kidnapping,

rape and intimidation" in at least two states, including California and Georgia. He said the allegations span more than 15 years.

A spokesperson for T.I. and Tiny denied those accusations.

Production for the VH1 reality series "T.I. & Tiny: Friends & Family Hustle" was suspended in February amid the sexual abuse allegations.



In this Monday, June 1, 2015 file photo, T.I., left, and Tiny arrive at the Los Angeles premiere of "Entourage" at the Westwood Regency Village Theatre.

Doctor husband is a poor patient for nurse wife

DEAR ABBY: My physician husband recently had a total hip replacement. (Orthopedics is not his specialty.) I'm a board-certified registered nurse with 40 years of experience who used to work inpatient orthopedics. He refuses to follow the surgeon's directions or mine, which are the same. He believes he knows more than all of us combined. However, when the home health nurse and physical therapist came, he accepted everything they told him. When I told him he doesn't respect my professional opinion, he didn't respond. Then I told him he'd insulted my integrity, and he blew up and accused me of being crazy.

History will soon repeat itself because he has to have his other hip done in a few months. I am to the point of letting the chips fall where they may and letting his outcomes (good or bad) be his sole responsibility. However, this is difficult to do as a wife and nurse. Plus, I will have to live with the fallout of any suboptimal outcomes. Your advice?

HIP SERVICE IN FLORIDA

DEAR HIP SERVICE: Whether caused by a painful recovery or the drugs he has been prescribed, your husband's behavior is self-defeating. Because he ignores your and his surgeon's advice, you have no choice but to let the chips fall where they may. You can suggest and warn until

you're hoarse, and your husband will continue to tune you out. The person who will have to live with the consequences is your noncompliant husband.

Allow me to offer a suggestion: Hire a nurse to tend to him after the second hip replacement and stay safely out of the line of fire. The peace of mind will be worth the money.

DEAR ABBY: I have a niece who is bipolar. She was put into rehab at the age of 20 and has been clean and sober for the last three years. We have always been close, but on a family visit, she asked my opinion about a job choice, and I was honest with her. Because it wasn't what she wanted to hear, she is extremely distant now. I am no longer "Auntie." She calls me by my first name only. Weekly calls have ceased.

I have championed my niece, supported her emotionally when she had problems and helped her out financially. Her mother says if you don't agree with her (even though she solicits your opinion), you are then "against" her. What's the best way to reach out to her? Due to extreme drug abuse for many years, she seems emotionally stuck at age 14.

AUNTIE NO MORE IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR AUNTIE: With the clear understanding that I am not a psychotherapist, may I point out that some individu-

DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

als who suffer from mental illness find it necessary to place people into two categories: friends and enemies. Disagreeing with your niece has landed you in the latter. Her mother has explained this to you, so try not to take it personally.

I don't think this troubled young woman will be receptive to a reconciliation until she has found another target. In the meantime, remain open, stay cordial and fill your life with activities that bring you joy rather than pain. I'm sure her mother will update you on your niece's progress.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order "How to Have a Lovely Wedding." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

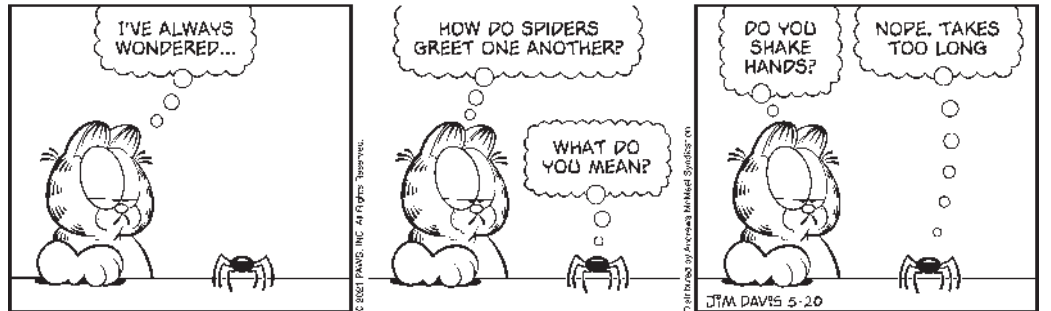
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



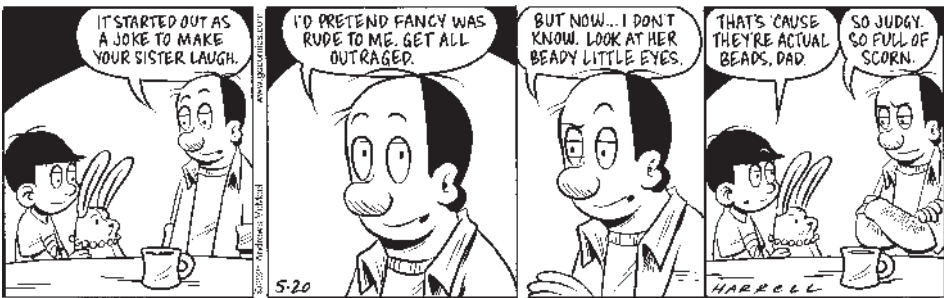
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



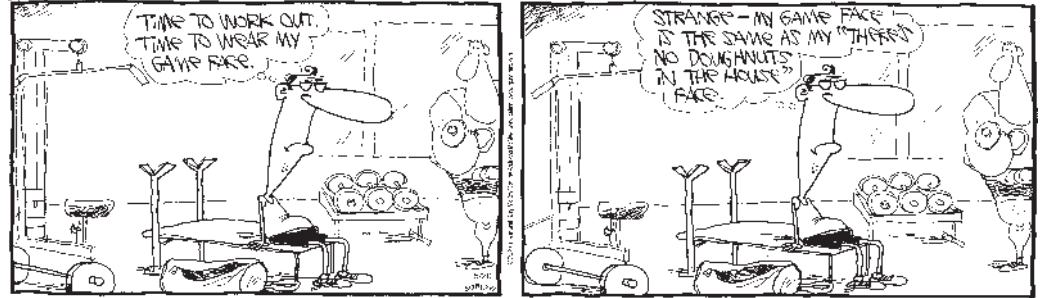
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Congers
5 By way of
8 Mellows
12 Sketched
13 Bankbook abbr.
14 Pyramid part
15 Suit to —
16 — King Cole
17 Gym site, for short
18 Just
20 Otherwise
22 "I'm listening ..."
26 Had aspirations
29 Wall St. debut
30 Be a couch potato
31 Black, in verse
32 Potent stick
33 "Collateral Beauty" actor
34 Put on TV
35 British ref. work
36 Canned
37 "I'm listening ..."

DOWN

1 Wax-coated cheese
2 Deco artist
3 Lusty look
4 Add sugar to
5 LP material
6 — tizzy (worked up)
7 Try
8 Bottomless gulf
9 Gomer of classic TV
54 Swelled head
55 Pre-Easter period

19 Went first
21 Summer sign
23 Singer
24 Thinker
25 "Zounds!"
26 Make well
27 Theater award
28 Part of Iberia
32 Like most high schoolers
33 "Give Me Everything" rapper
35 Discoverer's call
36 Little lie
38 Sudden onrush
39 Proportion
42 New York canal
43 Knitter's need
44 Venetian blind part
45 Hiatus
46 Actress
48 Gear-wheel tooth

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 5-20

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Daya Vaidya, 41; Matt Czuchy, 44; Tony Goldwyn, 61; Cher, 75.

Happy Birthday: Keep life simple, and it will help you gain perspective on what makes you happy and how best to fill your life with what matters most to you. It's time for a change, and it's up to you to be the one who takes the initiative to embrace what's best for you. An open mind will lead to new possibilities. Your numbers are 8, 13, 21, 29, 34, 38, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Make changes to ward off an emotional situation with someone close to you. Keep the peace, and be a good listener. The information you gather will help you decipher how best to handle a delicate situation. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Take the plunge; try something new and exciting. Engage in playful activity that will help you stay fit and help you take good care of your health and well-being. Don't buy into a sales pitch that offers the impossible. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Avoid excess. Be realistic, stick to a budget and don't exaggerate. Focus on what's important to you, and strive for perfection, performance and the patience to see matters through to the end. Show commitment, integrity and honor in everything you pursue. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): It's time for a change. Check out what's going on in your community. See if you can offer your services, skills or help. Making a difference

will encourage you to do more to help others. Be innovative and start something new. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Be careful who you associate with or trust. Someone will offer an exaggerated point of view that can lead you in the wrong direction. Do your research. It's time to be a leader, not a follower. Verify information, then proceed. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Listen carefully. Don't believe everything you hear. Focus on what you are trying to achieve, and stay out of situations that can affect your progress. Let the past be your barometer for how best to handle people and situations you face. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Be smart; ignore anyone trying to lure you into an argument. Keep your opinions to yourself, and focus on learning and gaining leverage that will help you advance. Personal growth, educational pursuits and romance are on the rise. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Pay attention to detail and your work will stand out. Taking a unique approach to the way you live and what you strive to achieve will bring you peace of mind and lead you on a life-changing journey. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A problem with a friend or relative will develop if you share expenses or engage in a joint venture. Choose to do your own thing to keep the peace. Exaggeration and empty promises will lead to disappointment and discord. **

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take the road less traveled and see where it leads. You are overdue for a lifestyle change that will lean toward minimalism and personal growth, not overspending and added stress. Follow your heart and engage in whatever makes you happy. *****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Commitment will lead to success. Clear a space at home that will allow you to give your all to something you enjoy doing. Share your success and happiness with someone you love, and you'll avoid an unnecessary emotional scene. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Take better care of yourself, your home and your relationship with those you love. A healthy lifestyle will help you head in a direction that encourages you to say no to temptation and yes to invitations from those trying to reach similar goals. ***

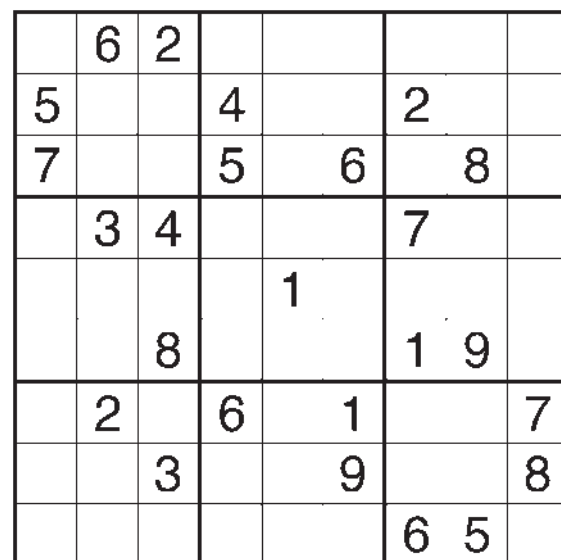
Birthday Baby: You are optimistic, descriptive and persuasive. You are persistent and witty.

☺: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☺☺: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☺☺☺: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☺☺☺☺: Aim high; start new projects. ☺☺☺☺☺: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

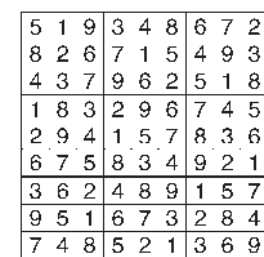
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level ***

5/20

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

CHRISTOPHER PLUMMER (1929-2021)

Solution: 10 letters

L E Y S F F I L C R O W N S C
I L E F I E M E A S U R E I A
T S N S R L Q U E B E C S W N
T A O U A E V T S G H U N E A
L E M M E G D E A S M O E L D
E R A M L Y H Z R F O T E P I
A O D I Y E E N D O M I H L R
I M E T I T E N D O M E L I R N
C Y L D T N N N I C A L B T C
I R I E I U T N S A K L U I Y
R R N G O R D E R R M O J F R
T A E S E L A I N E N A B L A
A B E A U T I F U L M I N D N
P H L R I G N I K W O R L D O
T A Y L O R C L E O P A T R A

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5/20

A Beautiful Mind, Alban, Amanda, Barrymore, Beginners, Caesar, Canadian, Care, Cleopatra, Cliffs, Crown, Cyrano, Elaine, Elegg, Elsa, Fred, Full, Gazette, Girl, Heidi, Jubilee, Kall, King, Lear, Lewis, Little, Madeline, Measure, Money, Montreal, Moon, Othello, Patricia, Québec, Silver, Summit, Tammy, Taylor, The Sound of Music, Triple, World

Yesterday's Answer: Motherhood

The NEW Treasury 43 can be purchased online at
www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6430.

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

Sabonis leads Pacers past Hornets 144-117 in play-in round



INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Domantas Sabonis delivered. He found open teammates, cleaned up the glass and played solid defense.

The combination helped keep Indiana's playoff hopes alive—for at least two more nights.

Sabonis had 14 points, 21 rebounds and nine assists, and the short-handed Pacers routed the Charlotte Hornets 144-117 in the Eastern Conference's first play-in game Tuesday.

"He's a point forward and sometimes when you're a point guard you have to score more and sometimes you have to assist more and make the right plays," coach Nate Bjorkgren said. "That's what I thought he was doing tonight. He was passing, hitting cutters, making the right play. He wants to make the right play."

Sabonis' reaction to the Hornets' attempt to clog the middle changed the game. Doug McDermott scored 16 of his 21 points in the first quarter as the Pacers started 7 of 11 from 3-point range — a decisive flurry that put Charlotte in a big hole.

The ninth-seeded Pacers snapped a franchise-worst nine-game losing streak in the postseason, earning their first win since blowing out Cleveland in Game 6 of a first-round series in April 2018. And they got it done without Caris LeVert, who was placed in the league's health and safety protocol before the game.

Now Indiana needs one more win to secure a sixth consecutive playoff appearance. The Pacers visit No. 8 Washington on Thursday night.

"Everybody got going," said Malcolm Brogdon, who scored 16 points in his first game since April 29. "It's the best when all your teammates get to score and have fun. I thought we had fun tonight and that was the best part."

It was no fun for the Hornets, who were led by Miles Bridges with 23 points. Former Indiana University star Cody Zeller had 17.

The Hornets finished the season with six straight losses. The difference Tuesday showed right from the start — playoff experience.

"They played like a veteran group," Charlotte coach James Borrego said. "They played like a tougher group that had been here before. They weren't fazed by the moment."

McDermott led the initial charge as Indiana continually beat Charlotte to loose balls and stayed in front of the Hornets on defense. The Pacers jumped out to a 23-9 lead, which they extended to 40-24 after one, 69-45 at halftime and 76-45 early in the third quarter.



Led by Sabonis, the Pacers never trailed.

"There are many ways to impact the game and as one of the leaders you have to do that," Sabonis said. "So I was setting up teammates, passing, playing defense. We were up 20 early and we just kept building the lead."

Celtics 118, Wizards 100

In Boston, the Boston Celtics were one of the NBA's worst

teams over the final month of the regular season.

Thanks to Jayson Tatum, they'll still have a chance to make a playoff run.

Tatum scored 32 of his 50 points in the second half, and the Celtics rallied to beat the Washington Wizards 118-100 in the play-in round on Tuesday night.

Kemba Walker added 29 points for Boston, which secured the seventh seed for the playoffs and a first-round

matchup with second-seeded Brooklyn. That series opens on Saturday.

Tatum has drawn criticism at times for his quiet leadership style. He said Tuesday's performance was how he wants to lead.

"I know that my teammates, I've earned their respect. I've earned the respect of the guys I play against," he said. "I believe in myself. That's all that matters."

The Celtics struggled down

the stretch, dropping 10 of their final 15 games of the season. Coach Brad Stevens said having to respond was in line with a season in which they had to fight through multiple players being unavailable because of injuries and stints in the league's health and safety protocols.

"We've been through a lot, so we're hardened in a lot of ways," Stevens said. "We've been backs against the wall for most of the

AP
Indiana Pacers' Domantas Sabonis, right, goes to the basket against Charlotte Hornets' Miles Bridges (0) during the first half of an NBA basketball Eastern Conference play-in game Tuesday, May 18, 2021, in Indianapolis.

year. ... It takes a lot of togetherness and it takes staying together through tough times."

Washington hosts Indiana, which rolled over Charlotte in Tuesday's other play-in game, for the eighth seed on Thursday. The winner of that game will face Philadelphia, the top seed for the Eastern Conference playoffs.

Bradley Beal scored 22 points for the Wizards. Russell Westbrook added 20 points and 14 rebounds. Ish Smith had 17 points. But the Wizards struggled from deep all night long, going 3 for 21 from the 3-point line.

"We couldn't find it. We couldn't find the basket," coach Scott Brooks said. "We haven't shot well all year long but we're not a 3-for-21 shooting team."

The Celtics played without second-leading scorer Jaylen Brown, who had season-ending wrist surgery last week. He sat courtside to support his teammates, but they missed his offensive production in the first half while they struggled to get into a flow.

That changed in the third quarter. Boston opened the second half on a 22-4 run, opening a 74-58 lead.

Boston followed Tatum's lead. The All-Star forward created space for open jumpers and drew contact in the lane. He was 17 of 17 from the free-throw line.

Washington closed to 91-84 in the fourth quarter, but Boston responded with a 15-6 run to push the lead to 106-88 with 5:32 to play.

"We just didn't do what we were supposed to do," Westbrook said.

Beal, who is dealing with a tender left hamstring, didn't have his usual explosiveness early on. He did his best to keep pace with Tatum and Walker, but the Wizards struggled with turnovers and cold outside shooting for most of the night.

Washington led 54-52 at halftime, shooting 50% from the field and getting a boost from its reserves, which outscored its Boston counterparts 22-6 in the opening 24 minutes.

The Celtics didn't help themselves by shooting just 35% in the half, including 29% (7 of 24) in the second quarter.

But Tatum was there to pick up the pieces when it mattered.

"Jayson was special," Walker said. "It's nothing new to me. I've been watching him put this work in for the last two years. ... I'm here for the ride."

Rockets optimistic about future despite NBA-worst record

HOUSTON (AP)—Houston Rockets general manager Rafael Stone said Tuesday that he isn't sure who will be attending the June 22 draft lottery when the team finds out where it will pick in July's draft.

But based on the luck he had in his first season as GM, he joked that he's hoping it's not him.

"It's definitely not me," Rockets coach Stephen Silas chimed in. "You see our injuries this year?"

After finishing at the bottom of the league's standings at 17-55 — the third-worst record in team history and worst since the 1982-83 season—Houston has a 14% chance to secure the top pick, same as Detroit and Orlando.

If Houston's pick falls outside of the top four — about a 48% chance — Oklahoma City has the right to swap Miami's No. 18 pick for it.

Stone was noncommittal on his plans for the future, including whether or not Houston may try to package its three first-round picks for an established veteran.

He was, however, adamant that the team doesn't plan to intentionally perform poorly to accumulate top draft picks over a prolonged period.

"We're committed to building something that gives us a championship," Stone

said. "Not trying to package a bunch of picks to barely make the playoffs for a year or two. We're trying to build something sustainable with something that can be good now and great later."

In reflecting on their first season in their new roles, Stone and Silas chalked up much of Houston's woes to bad luck.

It was a turbulent season. In December, weeks before the season started, Houston dealt Russell Westbrook to Washington for John Wall and a first-round pick.

About six weeks later, amid mounting frustration from disgruntled superstar James Harden, who had been a franchise cornerstone in Houston for nearly a decade, the Rockets traded him to Brooklyn, eventually getting Victor Oladipo and four first-round picks.

In March, Oladipo was flipped to Miami for Kelly Olynyk, Avery Bradley and a 2022 pick swap.

In the immediate aftermath of the Harden trade, Houston rattled off a six-game winning streak that lifted the team's record to 10-9 on Feb. 1.

From there, however, the Rockets managed just seven wins in their last 53 games, a .132 winning percentage.

Despite the struggles, Silas

and Stone expressed optimism.

"To have the season that we had, regardless of the wins and losses, and still be super hopeful for the future doesn't happen very often in this league," Silas said.

"When you lose as much as we did this season and still feel very good about what we have moving forward, that's a very good feeling. I'm excited about the group, I'm excited about the organization, and I'm excited about the future."

Silas and Stone spoke highly of Wall's first season in Houston. When Wall made his Rockets debut, he hadn't played in an NBA game for more than two years because of recoveries from knee and Achilles injuries.

Wall, who turns 31 in September, averaged 20.6 points and 6.9 assists. Silas said Wall's nagging injuries over the course of the season were the results of him wanting to play more and be as competitive and aggressive as possible.

"Those are the things that make John super impactful for our team," Silas said. "Just the amount of pride that I have for him, based on what he did, coming back from that injury, is just immeasurable."

Versatile big man Christian Wood was also a bright spot in his first season in Houston. After signing a three-year, \$41

million deal in the offseason, Wood averaged 21.0 points and 9.6 rebounds and shot 37.4% from 3-point range.

"He plays both ends, he plays inside-out, he's a walking bucket," Stone said. "Christian can play. One of the really encouraging things about this year is how well Christian can play."

The injury issue also hit shooting guard Eric Gordon, who missed the last two months of the season with a groin strain.

One silver lining from the injuries is that Houston saw a lot of its younger core. Kevin Porter Jr. was acquired from Cleveland for a heavily protected second-round pick in January. Porter dazzled at times, including a breakout game in April where he became the youngest in league history to post a 50-point, 10-assist game, days before his 21st birthday. Porter averaged 16.6 points and 6.3 assists in 26 games.

Jae'Sean Tate and Kenyon Martin Jr. also provided reasons for optimism about Houston's future, Stone said. He highlighted the versatility of each Rockets player and how that flexibility gives him plenty of options heading into the offseason.

"You find the best basketball players you can and make it fit," Stone said.

Turnbull gets MLB's 5th no-hitter, Tigers beat Mariners, 5-0



SEATTLE
(AP)—Spencer Turnbull

pitched the fifth no-hitter in the majors this season, sending the Detroit Tigers to a 5-0 victory over the Seattle Mariners on Tuesday night.

Turnbull, who led the big leagues with 17 losses two years ago, had never gone more than seven innings in any of his previous 49 starts over three seasons. The five no-hitters through May 18 match the 1917 season for the most in baseball history by that date.

Turnbull's no-hitter was the eighth in Tigers history and their first since Justin Verlander's in Toronto on May 7, 2011.

The 28-year-old right-hander got a great defensive play from third baseman Jeimer Candelario in the seventh inning and then struck out Mitch Haniger in the ninth to end it. Turnbull (3-2) struck out nine and walked two.

Turnbull threw 117 pitches, 77 for strikes. Haniger was the only batter to hit the ball hard enough to threaten a base hit.

Mets 4, Braves 3

In Atlanta, the New York Mets got homers from Jonathan Villar and Tomás Nido, an unlikely hit from Tommy Hunter and strong performances by a string of relievers to beat Atlanta.

Villar hit a two-run shot in the third inning, and Nido won it for the Mets in the ninth with a tie-breaking drive into the left-field seats off struggling Braves closer Will Smith (0-4).

One night after being struck in the face by a 95 mph fastball, Kevin Pillar brought New York's lineup card to home plate before the game, a gesture that brought a huge sigh of relief to both teams. With his face swollen and badly bruised, Pillar still managed a smile as he shook hands with the four umpires and Braves coach Walt Weiss, who gave him a warm pat on the shoulder.

Twins 5, White Sox 4

In Minneapolis, Miguel Sanó homered three times, Jorge Polanco hit a game-ending RBI single and Minnesota beat Yermín Mercedes and the Chicago White Sox.

Mercedes was the center of attention once again, one day after he hit a controversial homer in the ninth inning of Chicago's 16-4 victory. Twins reliever Tyler Duffey was ejected for throwing behind Mercedes in the seventh, and that seemed to spark the slumping Twins.

Sanó's two-run drive off Aaron Bummer (0-2) with one out in the eighth tied it at 4. With two out and runners on second and third in the ninth, Polanco singled to right



against Liam Hendriks.

The Twins had dropped two in a row, including an ugly 16-4 loss to AL Central-leading Chicago on Monday night. Taylor Rogers (1-2) got three outs for the win.

Yankees 7, Rangers 4

In Arlington, Texas, DJ LeMahieu had a season-high three RBIs, including the tiebreaking, two-run double in New York's big inning, and the Yankees beat Texas.

LeMahieu went the opposite way for his double down the right-field line to cap a five-run fourth that put the Yankees up 5-3. That was the first multi-RBI hit this season for LeMahieu, who added a sacrifice fly to deep center in the sixth.

Rougned Odor went 2 for 5 with two strikeouts against his former team in his return to the Yankees lineup after missing 12 games because of a sprained left knee.

Nick Solak, now the Rangers second baseman, had a solo homer after an earlier RBI single for the first Texas run.

Wandy Peralta (3-1) worked a scoreless inning. He took over for Yankees starter Jameson Taillon after Solak's eighth homer of the season with two outs in the fifth got Texas within 5-4. Aroldis Chapman worked the ninth for his 10th save in 10 chances.

Giants 4, Reds 2

In Cincinnati, Anthony DeSclafani gave up one run over seven good innings, Alex Dickerson hit a three-run homer and San Francisco beat Cincinnati.

DeSclafani (4-1), who signed with the Giants after five seasons in Cincinnati, was outstanding in his first appearance back at Great American Ball Park, scattering six hits and

striking out seven. Jake McGee pitched the ninth and got the Reds in order for his 11th save.

Brandon Crawford also homered for the NL West-leading Giants, who took the first two of the four-game set with the Reds.

Padres 2, Rockies 1, 10 innings

In San Diego, Jorge Mateo scored from third base on Daniel Bard's wild pitch in the bottom of the 10th inning to lift San Diego to its fifth straight win.

The Padres have won eight of their last nine. San Diego's 26 victories tie San Francisco for the most in the majors.

Bard (1-3) threw a high pitch on a 3-2 count to Trent Grisham that sailed off the mitt of catcher Dom Nunez, sending Mateo scampering home with one out.

Cardinals 5, Pirates 2

In St. Louis, Nolan Arenado hit a two-run homer, his fourth in four games, and St. Louis beat Pittsburgh.

Tommy Edman added three singles and drove in two runs for the Cardinals, who returned home after dropping three straight at the Padres to win their fourth consecutive game this season against Pittsburgh.

John Gant (3-3) gave up two runs and five hits in 5 1/3 innings to earn the win. Alex Reyes pitched the ninth to record his 12th save in 12 chances.

Indians 6, Angels 5

In Anaheim, Calif., Josh Naylor hit a tiebreaking homer in the eighth inning and Cleveland snapped a four-game losing streak.

Shohei Ohtani hit his major league-leading 14th home run for the Angels, who got bad news earlier in the day when

Mike Trout was placed on the injured list with a strained right calf. The three-time AL MVP is expected to miss six to eight weeks.

Justin Upton and José Iglesias also went deep for Los Angeles.

The Indians jumped out to a 5-0 lead in the first but saw the Angels steadily rally and tie it in the seventh. Naylor, though, put Cleveland back on top when he drove a changeup from Alex Claudio (0-1) over the wall in right-center for his fourth homer of the season.

Cubs 6, Nationals 3

In Chicago, David Bote and Ian Happ homered, and the Chicago Cubs beat Washington.

Chicago slugger Anthony Rizzo left the game because of tightness in his lower back, but the Cubs got enough big hits to come away with another win after pounding Jon Lester the previous day in his return to Wrigley Field.

Bote broke a 3-all tie with a two-run homer against reliever Will Harris (0-1) in the sixth inning. Happ made it 6-3 with his drive to the basket in left-center against Wander Suero leading off the eighth.

Keegan Thompson (2-1) tossed 1 1/3 innings after Zach Davies pitched into the sixth. Thompson also got his first major league hit when he singled in the sixth.

Royals 2, Brewers 0

In Kansas City, Mo., Andrew Benintendi drove in the go-ahead run with two outs in the eighth inning and Kansas City spoiled a masterful start by Milwaukee's Brandon Woodruff.

Royals starter Kris Bubic, who had been working in long relief but got a spot start when Danny Duffy headed to the injured list, threw six innings of

one-hit ball.

Woodruff (2-2) allowed just four hits before walking Whit Merrifield and plunking Carlos Santana with two outs in the eighth. Brewers manager Craig Counsell brought in reliever Devin Williams to face Benintendi, who lined a single to right field that gave Merrifield just enough time to slide under Omar Narvaez's tag at the plate.

Athletics 6, Astros 5

In Oakland, Calif., Ramón Laureano hit two home runs, then lofted a game-ending sacrifice fly in the ninth inning as Oakland ended Houston's six-game winning streak.

Laureano pumped his left fist when his one-out flyball off Bryan Abreu (2-2) reached center field and Mark Canha scurried home from third.

Matt Chapman hit a tying double in the eighth after Canha's sacrifice fly the previous inning.

Yusmeiro Petit (5-0) pitched the ninth for the win as defending AL West champion Oakland moved 1 1/2 games up on the Astros and stopped their longest winning streak of the season.

Rays 13, Orioles 6

In Baltimore, Mike Zunino hit two home runs and Tampa Bay connected five times in all for its fifth straight win.

Brett Phillips and Austin Meadows hit three-run homers in the second inning and Ji-Man Choi hit a late drive as the Rays matched their longest winning streak of the year. Tampa Bay is a season-high five games over .500 at 24-19. Baltimore has lost eight of its last 10 and fell to a majors-worst 6-16 at home.

Matt Harvey (3-4) gave up six runs and seven hits in 1 2/3 innings in his shortest start since a 1 1/3-inning out-

AP
Detroit Tigers starting pitcher Spencer Turnbull winds up during the eighth inning against the Seattle Mariners in a baseball game Tuesday, May 18, 2021, in Seattle.

ing against the Chicago White Sox on Sept. 6 while pitching for Kansas City.

Phillies 8, Marlins 3

In Philadelphia, pinch-hitter Ronald Torreyes delivered a tiebreaking, two-run double in the eighth inning to lift Philadelphia.

The Marlins took a 3-1 lead when Jazz Chisholm Jr. hit a two-run homer off a 100 mph fastball from Jose Alvarado in the top of the eighth. But the Phillies answered in the bottom half against relievers Dylan Floro (2-2) and John Curtiss.

Alec Bohm had an RBI double off the right-field fence. Odubel Herrera reached on an infield single and Andrew Knapp walked to load the bases. Nick Maton lined an RBI single to tie it.

Curtiss entered and Torreyes lined the first pitch down the left-field line in his first at-bat since April 17. Jean Segura's infield single knocked in another run. Bryce Harper ripped a two-run single to cap the seven-run rally.

Blue Jays 8, Red Sox 0

In Dunedin, Fla., Hyun Jin Ryu pitched seven masterful innings, light-hitting Danny Jansen played a key offensive role and Toronto beat Boston.

Ryu (4-2) scattered four hits and struck out seven. Travis Bergen, Tyler Chatwood and Rafael Dolis completed the five-hitter.

Jansen had a second-inning RBI single and drew a pivotal walk during a three-run fourth as Toronto won for the ninth time in 12 games and improved to a season-high six games over .500. Jansen had two hits in three at-bats and raised his batting average to .143.

Dodgers 9, Diamondbacks 1

In Los Angeles, Gavin Lux hit his first career grand slam and Julio Urias pitched three-hit ball into the seventh inning as Los Angeles won for the sixth time in seven games.

Mookie Betts hit a leadoff homer and Chris Taylor added a tiebreaking, two-run shot in the fifth inning before Lux broke it open in the seventh, putting his second homer of the season into the short right field porch off Kevin Ginkel.

Nick Ahmed had an RBI double for the injury-depleted Diamondbacks, who have lost six of seven after dropping the first two in this four-game set.

Falcons' Ryan says he has more 'good football' to come at 36

ATLANTA (AP)—One day after celebrating his 36th birthday, Matt Ryan acknowledged his age has many wondering how long he'll continue to lead the Atlanta Falcons offense.

He also knows it was an especially hot topic before the NFL draft. Many believed the Falcons should have used the No. 4 overall selection on a quarterback to be trained as Ryan's successor. Instead, the Falcons selected tight end Kyle Pitts to give Ryan another playmaker.

As Ryan prepares for a new season with new coach Arthur Smith, he says he doesn't worry about fans or critics who may be eager for a change at quarterback.

"I think in one respect you understand that if you play well for long enough, these are the conversations that are going to come up," Ryan said Tuesday. "I understand I'm not going to play forever, but I also have the mindset that I can still play really well and have a lot of good football in front of me."

Thanks in part to social media, Ryan couldn't avoid the public debate before the draft about the Falcons' quarterback situation.

"It's harder than ever now to avoid the noise," he said.

If Ryan needed a vote of confidence from Smith and new general manager Terry Fontenot, it came when the team did

not draft a quarterback. "From the very beginning we always had a lot of confidence in Matt Ryan," Fontenot said. "Really going through and evaluating this entire quarterback class has nothing to do, never had anything to do with a lack of confidence in Matt Ryan."

Ryan was the only quarterback on the depth chart when the team selected Pitts, the tight end from Florida. The team then signed free agent quarterback A.J. McCarron, who was a backup in Houston the past two seasons.

Clearly, Ryan is still the starter and is the most accomplished quarterback in franchise history. His production has been more consistent than the team's success.

The Falcons finished 4-12 last season, Ryan's 13th as the starter. The team's third consecutive losing record fueled fans' appetite for change. Ryan knows change is inevitable.

"Whether it's year 1 or year 13, whatever it is, you're constantly trying to prove that you're the right person for this spot," he said. "I was told at a young age from some veteran players that in this locker room you don't own a locker. You rent it. So I try to pay the rent on time all the time and do the best I can do to stay in that spot."

Ryan has been durable, missing only three games in his career. He started every game last season, when his quarterback rating (93.3) was



Atlanta Falcons quarterback Matt Ryan (2) throws a pass before an NFL football game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in Tampa, Fla., in this Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021, file photo.

significantly below his 117.1 rating in his 2016 MVP season. It was in line with his 94.5 career average.

He completed 65% of his

passes, again nearly matching his career average, while passing for 4,581 yards with 26 touchdowns and 11 interceptions.

Ryan said Monday's birth-

day celebration was a low-key day that included an early dinner with his kids.

"They got some chicken fingers and chilled out," he said.

ACS

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at sixth place was Tinian Jr./Sr. High School with 15 points overall.

ACS managed to take home the championship plaque behind Sally Wu, Emma Pang, Eunice Xu, Grace Shi, Elizabeth Xu, Elim Huang, Ivy Yu, and Ruth Zhang.

On top of gaining points from individual events, the Lady Torch Bearers topped the 18U girls 4x400 relay event and contributed to winning the 18U mixed medley relay event.

Meanwhile, ACS also topped the boys 18U division with a total of 155 points. Coming in at second place was Kagman High School who accumulated 59 points

overall. Making the Top 3 was Marianas High School with a score of 55.

The fourth-place honor was given to Tinian Jr./Sr. High School who made a total of 54 points, followed by Saipan International School with 46 points. Mount Carmel School made sixth place with 29 points, followed by Saipan Southern High School at seventh place and Grace Christian came in at 8th place.

Steven Wang, Ray Qi, David Ji, Bobby Bao, David Zheng, Antonio Li, Eason Tang, Caleb Dai, Peter Hu, Allen Luo, Jason Cao, Samuel He, Abraham Zhu, and Bill Li all contributed to the success of ACS in the boys 18U division.

In addition, ACS topped the 18U boys 4x100m relay, the

4x400 relay, and the mixed medley relay.

Aside from ACS, Dan Dan Middle School, and Grace Christian Academy also won the overall team award for the 14U girls and boys division, respectively.

DMS topped the girls 14U division of the championships with an overall score of 93, followed by GCA with a score of 77. Completing the Top 3 was SIS with a score of 75.

MCS took fourth place with 74 points, ACS came in fifth with a score of 51, Tanapag Middle School made sixth place with 20 points, Chacha Middle School came in seventh with 18 points, and Saipan Community School finished eighth.

Team DMS consisted of

Patty Mendiola, Ha'ani Passi, Martha Cabrera, and Tamia Kileleman-Hix. The team also won the 14U girls 4x100 relay.

The 14U boys division top team was GCA with an overall score of 98, followed by DMS with 83, and ACS made the Top 3 with 48 points. Tinian came in at fourth place with 38 points, followed by ChaCha at 34, SIS made fifth place with 34 points, followed by MCS with 28, TMS finished the event with 22 points, and at eighth place was SCS with 14 points.

GCA's Joseph Pangelinan, Steven Adriatico, Jasper Hall, Takeru Jim, Mile Linden, and Theodore Rodgers carried the team to victory. The Eagles also topped the boys 14U 4x100 relay and the mixed medley relay.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE					NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division					East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB					
Boston	25	18	.581		New York	20	16	.556	
Toronto	23	17	.575	½	Philadelphia	22	20	.524	1
Tampa Bay	24	19	.558	1	Atlanta	19	23	.452	4
New York	23	19	.548	1½	Miami	18	23	.439	4½
Baltimore	17	24	.415	7	Washington	16	22	.421	5
Central Division					Central Division				
Chicago	25	16	.610		St. Louis	24	18	.571	
Cleveland	22	18	.550	2½	Chicago	21	20	.512	2½
Kansas City	19	22	.463	6	Milwaukee	21	21	.500	3
Detroit	16	26	.381	9½	Cincinnati	19	21	.475	4
Minnesota	14	26	.350	10½	Pittsburgh	17	24	.415	6½
West Division					West Division				
Oakland	26	17	.605		San Francisco	26	16	.619	
Houston	24	18	.571	1½	San Diego	26	17	.605	½
Seattle	21	22	.488	5	Los Angeles	24	18	.571	2
Los Angeles	18	23	.439	7	Arizona	18	25	.419	8½
Texas	19	25	.432	7½	Colorado	15	28	.349	11½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

DOVE WOMEN'S STANDINGS								
DIVISION A								
	GP	PTS	W	D	L	GF	GA	GD
Shirley's FC	9	25	8	1	0	46	18	28
SUFC	9	15	4	3	2	55	21	34
Kanoa FC	9	11	3	2	4	30	31	(1)
THFC	9	0	0	0	9	16	72	(56)
DIVISION B								
Shirley's FC	8	22	7	1	0	36	11	25
SUFC	8	18	6	0	2	28	11	17
THFC	8	11	3	2	3	21	17	4
MPU FC	8	7	2	1	5	7	28	(21)
Kanoa FC	8	0	0	0	8	9	32	(23)
MASTERS DIVISION								
Paire 1	8	24	8	0	0	25	6	19
Matansa FC	8	13	4	1	3	16	11	5
Paire 2	8	13	4	1	3	14	9	5
THFC	8	9	3	0	5	9	17	(8)
Kanoa FC	8	0	0	0	8	0	24	(24)

DOVE

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seed after defeating Kanoa, 2-1. The top seed will face TanHoldings, the division's No. 4, for the first finals seat.

Battling for the second finals seat will be Southern United and Kanoa. Southern United secured its standing as the division's No. 2 after besting TanHoldings last weekend, 14-1.

The losers of both playoffs

matches will go head to head in the finals for a shot at completing the Top 3.

The Dove Women's League playoffs will start at 3pm this Sunday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Shirley's FC gained the outright finals birth for Division B after coasting past Kanoa with a 10-2 victory during their match last weekend for the 2021 Dove Spring Women's League.



TSUNAMI

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took the fastest time of 48.11 seconds, followed closely by Suzuki at 48.29, with Aleksenko less than 2 seconds back, at 49.93. Times grew even closer in the freestyle, with Suzuki taking the lead there with a 38.41 second swim, only a hundredth of a second ahead of Tenorio at 38.42, and Aleksenko at 38.75 seconds.

On the girls' side, Maria Batallones took top times in both 100m breaststroke and 100m freestyle at 57.26 and

47.29 seconds, respectively. Shoko Litulumar placed second with 1:01.28 in the breastroke and only 0.14 seconds behind in the freestyle, with a time of 47.72. Third place in the breastroke went to Nagisa Litulumar at 1:03.03, and third in freestyle was Aoi Braxton, with 48.66. Not one had any less than their personal best on Tuesday.

Although the pool they are using isn't regulation size—just under 25 yards, compared to a standard 50-meter lap pool—so long as they have a consistent space, they

can track their progress just as well. The shorter distance doesn't seem to be holding them back. Tenorio, one of Tsunami's top swimmers, was asked how he liked the new lap pool.

"It's actually pretty hard. Some people think it would be easy, because it's shorter, but no... Here we can actually work on our turn techniques, which is harder to work on in the Marpi pool." It makes a lot of sense. With a half-sized pool, those difficult maneuvers come twice as often.

New pools or not, Teno-

rio and his fellow Tsunami Saipan teammates are eager to get back into competitive swim meets against other teams like Saipan Swim Club. "I can't wait for the next one... We're expecting one this summer." It's not only island-only meets that are coming up, though. Tenorio and other top swimmers are looking to compete in Taiwan this summer. Tsunami Saipan coach Kimura seems to be preparing them well, and Tenorio, at least, is confident.

"I'm ready for that."



Sabonis leads Pacers past Hornets 144-117 in play-in round

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Falcons' Ryan says he has more 'good football' to come at 36

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

ACS conquers 18U division



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Agape Christian School topped the girls 18U division of the annual 2021 PSS/McDonalds All Schools Athletics Championships that concluded last weekend at the Oleai Track and Field.

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

Agape Christian School topped the 18U division of the annual 2021 PSS/McDonalds All Schools Athletics Championships that concluded last weekend at the Oleai Track and Field.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Agape Christian School topped the boys 18U division of the annual 2021 PSS/McDonalds All Schools Athletics Championships that concluded last weekend at the Oleai Track and Field.

The Torch Bearers gained the overall school award for both the 18U girls and boys division with their qualifiers earning top spots in most of the events.

For the girls 18U boys divi-

sion, the Lady Torch Bearers earned a total of 116 points to gain bragging rights to this year's championships.

Marianas High School landed at second place with an overall



score of 89. Earning the Top 3 spot was Saipan International School with a score of 54.

Tied for fourth place were Grace Christian Academy,

Saipan Southern High School, and Kagman High School with an overall score of 32. Coming in at No. 5 was Mount Carmel School with a score of 20 and

See ACS on Page 19

Tsunami Saipan swimmers continue to churn out PBs in time trials

By **CODY RACE**
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CORRESPONDENT

Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan—like a lot of sports organizations these days—has been waiting eagerly for a proper competition. Tsunami Saipan has had some difficulty with training, as the Marpi swimming pool has been closed since 2019. Still, swimmers are determined to swim, and they've managed to find a regular practice pool.

And practice they have! Tsunami Saipan has been putting in hours every weekend, and coach Hiro Kimura has been tracking their progress with regular time trials. Though medals and ribbons aren't awarded for these smaller, in-house events, competition is still fierce. Tsunami Saipan's two-dozen-or-

so students compete at a range of abilities and age



at this week's time trial event.

This past Tuesday saw trials for two categories, the 100m breaststroke and 100m freestyle. In some cases, students improved their times by 3 seconds or more.

In the breaststroke Tenorio representing the very fastest of Tsunami Saipan's male students, Juhn Tenorio, Isaiah Aleksenko, and Jinnosuke Suzuki placed personal bests

See **TSUNAMI** on Page 19



CODY RACE

Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan swimmers cool off for a group shot after time trials at a residential pool where they've been practicing regularly.

Dove Women's League enters playoff stage

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
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REPORTER

The 2021 Dove Spring Women's League is gearing up for playoffs with the first set of playoffs matches this weekend.

Following last weekend's set of matches, the Dove women's league has finalized the lineup for the playoffs this Sunday.

In the Master's Division, Paire Football Club 1 bested Paire 2, officially taking the division's first finals spot.

Paire 1 completed the regular season with a 3-1 victory over Paire 2.

Fortunately, Paire 2 still has a shot at facing Paire 1 in the finals as the division's Top 3. Paire 2 will vie for the second finals seat against Matansa FC this Sunday.

Meanwhile, TanHoldings and Kanoa will go head to head in the playoffs to earn a chance to vie for the Top 3 spot. Whoever wins in their match, they will face whoever lost between Paire 2 and Matansa.

During last weekend's matches, Matansa stole the No. 2 spot from Paire 2 after defeating TanHoldings, 1-0.

Similar to the Masters Division, Shirley's FC gained the outright finals birth for Division B after coasting past Kanoa with a 10-2 victory.

Battling it out for the second finals seat will be Division B's No. 2 Southern United and TanHoldings.

Southern United maintained its Top 2 standings af-



ter outplaying TanHoldings last weekend with a 3-1 victory.

Vying for a chance to enter the finals and compete for the top three spot are MP United and Kanoa. Whoever wins between the two will face the loser between Southern United and TanHoldings for the chance at the season's No. 3.

In Division A, Shirley's enters the playoffs as the top

See DOVE on Page 19



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

In the Master's Division, Paire Football Club 1 bested Paire 2 last weekend to officially take the division's first finals spot for the 2021 Dove Spring Women's League.